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“LOUVIERS”, THE HOME OF CHARLES I. DUPONT, BUILT BY HIS
FATHER IN 1811

A CALENDAR OF
RIDGELY FAMILY

LETTERS 1742 - 1899

in the

DELAWARE STATE ARCHIVES

Edited and Compiled by

Leon deValinger, Jr., State Archivist

and

Virginia E. Shaw, Junior Archivist

Family Data Supplied By Mrs. Henry Ridgely

Volume III

Published privately by some descendants of
the Ridgely Family for the
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A.	Autograph
c.	circa
cm.	centimeter
Cy.	copy
D.	Document
Df.	.....	Draft
L.	.....	Letter
N.	.....	Note
n.d.	.....	no date
n.p.	.....	no place
p. or pp.	.....	page or pages
pub.	.....	Published
S.	.....	Signed or Signature
U.	.....	Unsigned



Dedicated to Ann Ridgely, daughter of
Henry Moore Ridgely, and wife of
Charles I. duPont.

Because of her devotion to her family
she rescued and preserved a mass of let-
ters which she found in the garret of the
old Ridgely House on the Dover Green.

FOREWORD

It is indeed rare that one is privileged to indulge in a retrospect of an American upper-class family for a period of one hundred and fifty-seven years. Such an opportunity was afforded when the unusual collection of Ridgely family papers was presented to the Public Archives Commisison of Delaware in 1942. The initial gift by Mrs. William C. Peyton and her sisters and brother, Mrs. James Andrews, Miss Amy duPont and Mr. Eugene duPont, was acquired through the intercession of Mrs. Henry Ridgely of Dover, Delaware. Later Mrs. Ridgely added to the Collection documents which had accumulated through the years in the old Ridgely House facing historic Dover Green. She also aided considerably during the period of editing by supplying facts of family history and clarifying genealogical relationships.

The initial gift of Ridgely documents amounted to 1677 letters and personal papers. The latter comprised family accounts, legal papers, bits of poetry, copies of literary gems of the period, newspaper clippings, obituary notices, and even locks of hair carefully wrapped in paper. Mrs. Henry Ridgely's subsequent gifts to the Collection, have raised the total of letters and personal papers to 4,023 documents.

The papers in the Ridgely Collection cover the period 1742 to as recent as 1899. Thus all branches of the Ridgely family in Delaware, from the founder, Nicholas Ridgely, to all but the last three generations, are represented in these letters. Upon examining the Collection as a whole it becomes evident that the early members of the family carefully preserved all of their correspondence. The later fate of these records is described graphically in a letter from Mrs. Charles I. (Ann Ridgely) duPont to a friend about 1890. Part of her letter states:

“My father was Mr. Dulany's friend, legal adviser, and executor. I am truly sorry the DuLany papers, were not better cared for by my father's widow. If she had only given them to me I would have delighted in preserving them for the DuLany family. I think I mentioned that at my father's death his widow was left a life estate in the house, and all it contained; she outlived him forty years. The office was rented during that length of years the papers were left in an uncovered box, a prey to the elements and the rats, in an old loft, which after a time leaked. At my step-mother's

death I directed them to be gathered up and sent in bags to me, to rescue what I could of them, as my brothers had not the patience to do it. I received eight three-bushel bags of them, a heterogeneous mass of old parchment deeds in a wretched state of decay, legal papers, social letters of the DuLany's, their business papers of the sales of iron and tobacco. Social, business and legal papers of the Ridgelys even to modern times. Social, and business letters of Governor Comegys, (my step-mother's father) &c. I read a very few, but they were all engrossing, and those which were not in a state of decay I saved. There were four bags of DuLany papers. If they could have been preserved, what a history of those early times they would have given. I threw the Ridgely papers in a large empty trunk and have yet to look over them. I doubt whether I will find anything of the genealogy of the family as the oldest papers were in the possession of Chancellor Ridgely, and were destroyed at his death."

To alleviate the shock one receives upon reading of the destruction of these quantities of family papers, rich in social, historical, economic and political data of their time, it should be pointed out that 36 of the Dulany papers, 30 of the Hamilton family records, and a considerable number of the earlier Ridgely papers are still extant. Furthermore, it should be added that Mrs. duPont did much more toward preserving the Ridgely papers than just throwing them "in a large empty trunk", as she states. She protected them from further damage, carefully grouped related correspondence and added many bits of identifying information to the endorsements on the back of many of the papers. In the years to come scholars and students of the history of the Middle Colonies will be increasingly thankful to Mrs. duPont, to her grandchildren, the donors of the collection, and to Mrs. Henry Ridgely who gave the additional papers to supplement those originally presented. It is everlastingly to the credit of their cultural appreciation and foresight that this valuable collection of early American records reposes safely in the vaults of the State Archives of Delaware at Dover.

The significance of this collection should not be considered lightly. These papers are not only the written record of a family for a period of about one hundred and fifty years, neither are

they of local interest only to Dover or to the State of Delaware. The wealth of historical, social, economic, political and other folkway data the letters contain makes them a new source of information for interpreting the thoughts and behaviorism of our ancestors. In this collection is reflected the course of phrases of the life of the Middle Colonies, later known as the Middle Atlantic States. To understand the history of this area is to understand the development and growth of our Country. During much of the eighteenth century Philadelphia was the political, financial, commercial, industrial, and cultural center of the North American Continent. The correspondence of members of the Ridgely family with their relatives and friends is woven inextricably with the life and progress of that still great city. In the nineteenth century, too, it retained a prominent though less overshadowing position in the affairs of the Ridgely family, as in those of the Nation as a whole. The correspondence of that century, while in all respects more diverse than that of the eighteenth, includes many letters dated from the Delaware towns of Wilmington, Dover, New Castle and Farmington, along with a smaller number from other communities in the State. In the second half of the century there are no long series of letters from the large nearby cities, so notable a feature of the earlier chapters of this *Calendar*. Their place is filled by individual items and small groups from dozens of communities throughout eastern United States, with a scattering from the West, as well as from Canada and several countries of Europe. There is likewise a higher proportion of inter-family letters in the correspondence of this period, with somewhat fewer prominent unrelated contributors. There are, nevertheless, a substantial number of such individuals represented, among them Daniel M. Bates and Samuel M. Harrington, Chancellors of Delaware, Watson R. Sperry, a Wilmingtonian who was named Minister to Persia, and persons of national distinction such as Senators John M. Clayton and James A. Bayard, Jr., Rear-Admiral Samuel Francis duPont, and the illustrator Howard Pyle. Seldom has an opportunity been presented to examine so many diversified facets of American family life and achievement over so long a period.

It was the full realization of the wealth of historical material contained in this collection which prompted my suggestion that it should be published in order that research

workers and scholars throughout the Country might be apprised of the contents of the collection. It was indeed gratifying that this suggestion was accepted by Mrs. James Andrews, Miss Amy duPont, Mrs. Henry Ridgely, Mr. Eugene duPont and Mr. Bernard Peyton who subscribed a fund to defray all costs of publication of a calendar of abstracts of the letters to be issued under the imprint of the Public Archives Commission. The size of the Collection is such that the *Calendar* was published in three volumes.

The calendar was the form of publication selected as being the one which would convey the most information regarding the contents of this Collection. It is recognized that it would be more desirable to publish the letters in full but, for a collection as large as this, the cost would have been prohibitive. The abstracts which have been prepared for each individual letter are intended to serve as a guide to the contents of the letters, but in numerous cases quotation from the letters have been included to preserve the verbiage of the period and to impart the exact meaning of the writer. Usually the calendarized letters of an individual include only the letters to and from that person, but in the preparation of this calendar we were confronted with the problem of devising an orderly system for calendarizing the letters to and from many individuals. As far as we were able to ascertain, such a calendar including letters of so many individuals has not been undertaken previously. It should also be explained that the Dulany and Hamilton papers have not been included in this calendar, and as far as the papers of the Ridgely family are concerned, only the letters have been calendarized. The plan devised for presenting the abstracts of the letters in an orderly manner and with continuity was to devote an individual chapter to the male head of the family in each generation and an additional one for his children. Within these chapters all letters to or from the subject of the chapter are presented in chronological order and include the correspondence of the wife as well as that of their children during minority. The separate chapters designated for the children contain the exchange of correspondence among themselves and with friends or relatives, but not with their parents. The exceptions to these general rules were in the instances of Ann Moore Ridgely, Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely, Henry Moore Ridgely, Ann Ridgely duPont and the Rev. Nicho-

las Ridgely, each of whom was allotted a separate chapter because of the quantity and importance of their correspondence. In these instances the correspondence of the men began with letters dated nearest their twenty-first birthday while that of Ann Moore Ridgely begins with the first letter following her marriage and includes the correspondence of her husband. We have attempted to identify all incomplete names of persons mentioned in the correspondence. When persons are referred to in the abstracts by their first name only, they invariably refer to members of the Ridgely family; *e. g.* "Mary says she will write." In the event of a hiatus in a name it is indicated by The size of the documents has been shown in centimeters and the first dimension is the width followed by the length. As some of the letters in this calendar were written before the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in Delaware and the other English colonies in America in 1752, it should be pointed out that in computing dates the adjustment of eleven additional days between the old Augustine calendar and the new calendar should be allowed. In the editing of these letters, however, we have presented the dates as they have appeared in them and have not indicated whether they were new style or old style. In the headings of the letters the state designation Delaware is omitted after Dover and Wilmington, and D. C. is omitted after Washington.

In the course of preparing this volume and collecting elusive bits of information we received the kind assistance of Mr. Frank L. Battan, Assistant Director, Longwood Library, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania; Dr. Norman B. Wilkinson, Research Associate, Hagley Museum, Wilmington, Delaware; and Mrs. Mary G. Bryan, State Archivist, Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, Georgia. Of our staff members who contributed to the making of this volume we are most appreciative to Miss Virginia E. Shaw, Junior Archivist, for abstracting, indexing and editorial contributions; to Mrs. John M. Bounds and Mrs. W. George Butler for typing the manuscript and to Mr. C. Ray Quillen, Senior Photographer, for the preparation of the illustrations.

Leon deValinger, Jr.
State Archivist of Delaware

Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware
June, 1960

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

This third volume of a series completes the annals of the Ridgely Family as disclosed through the correspondence of five generations of a Delaware family. The chapters of this volume are centered about the Rev. Nicholas Ridgely, Ann (Ridgely) duPont, her husband Charles I. duPont, and Ann and Nicholas Johnson during the years 1841 to 1898. Their letters, like those assembled in the two preceding volumes, touch upon many aspects of American life. Nicholas Ridgely (1820-1849), the third individual of his name represented in this *Calendar*, was a Methodist clergyman whose brief ministry began in a rural circuit on the Delmarva Peninsula and closed in Philadelphia. He was also a scholarly man whose interests, though centered in the church, ranged far beyond those limits. Charles I. duPont (1797-1869) was not only a successful manufacturer but a cultured gentleman concerned with public affairs in Delaware and the Nation, and with scientific agriculture. His wife, Ann (Ridgely) duPont (1815-1898), was a woman so many-sided that her correspondence might of itself come near to illustrating a social history of her time. Anne Johnson (1856-1888), appears in this collection, as a child, schoolgirl and well-educated young woman; her brother Nicholas Johnson (1852-1928), student and youth during most of the period covered by his letters, was in his mature years engaged in farm management and agricultural activities in Kent County. From each other, their families and close friends, fellow-churchmen, business associates, employees and casual acquaintances, these varied individuals received letters telling of personal problems, business, farming, travel in the United States and Europe, concerns of school and church, public affairs of State and Nation, and the trivia of daily life through fifty-seven of the sixty-three years we call Victorian. These letters begin when the Civil War was still twenty years in the future and continue until the Spanish-American War was almost over.

Two sections of this *Calendar* open in the year 1841. The letters of Ann (Ridgely) and her husband Charles I. duPont date from their marriage in May, while those of Nicholas Ridgely, Mrs. duPont's brother, begin with his twenty-first birthday in December. By further coincidence, this son and daughter of

Henry M. Ridgely are only two members of the fourth Delaware generation of the Ridgely family¹ known to have left an extensive adult correspondence. Since they were of congenial temperament, shared many interests and had numerous mutual friends, their letters for the most part need but a single historical setting. The circumstances of their lives, nevertheless, differed very widely indeed.

Nicholas Ridgely, when he came of age, was a newly licensed "local preacher" of the Methodist Church, studying for his first examination before the Convention the following spring. He was to live but eight years longer. During these years he was to be an itinerant on a large rural circuit in Maryland, the pastor of town churches in three communities of medium size in Delaware and Pennsylvania, minister of a large congregation in a growing section of Philadelphia, and finally a "supernumerary" forced to resign his pulpit in a fruitless search for health. His professional problems were those of a Methodist working among Methodists, but his personal approach to religion was not sectarian. His intimates, moreover, were drawn from many denominations. Among the Episcopalians were his brothers and sisters and many family friends. There were also Presbyterians and a Baptist among correspondents whose faiths are identified. A sister-in-law was a Friend. His brother-in-law Charles I. duPont, a member of a predominantly Episcopal family who himself had no sectarian affiliation, had a few Roman Catholic relatives and a substantial number of employees of that faith. Nicholas Ridgely's correspondence, supplemented by less frequent comment in the duPont series, therefore, offers insights into many religious viewpoints and practices of the midcentury.

The religious climate these letters recall had many contradictions. Camp meetings and "protracted meetings" from time to time whipped up hysterical fervor, sometimes in a country circuit or a village like Dover, sometimes in the largest cities. Obeying rigid taboos about Sunday behavior and the use of alcohol was, to some, almost the whole of religion; having

¹ Volume II of this series, in its Historical Introduction, has presented this generation of Ridgeleys as a family group against the background of their time and dwelling-place, through the year 1850. It also contains the abstracted correspondence of Ann and Nicholas Ridgely while they remained members of their father's household, biographical sketches of their brothers and sisters, and abstracts of the correspondence of those siblings with others than Mrs. Charles I. duPont or Rev. Nicholas Ridgely subsequent to 1841.

“faith”, in the sense of accepting the instruction of one’s special sect without thought or question, was the rest. A church crisis could shape up over a demand to expel a convert who would not give up his customary Sunday rides into the country with his family. Correspondents indicate prejudice of varying intensity against such diverse targets as Methodists, “Papists”, Swedenborgians and “Puseyites”. Nicholas Ridgely, in 1844, found the jealousy between the village churches of New Castle so savage he accepted an assignment there as a test. A physician might build his practice in a strange city solely on the credit of being a lay preacher in his denomination. Baptism and formal union with a church were widely emphasized. A curious blend of ritual and emotion was, in brief, a keynote of the current church practices. But a picture of the religion of the time based only on examples like these would be a caricature. Nicholas Ridgely’s correspondence also shows young ministers gravely troubled about the incited hysteria of revival meetings. Such men wondered, indeed, if any were ever truly saved by such means. They searched their hearts bitterly when they were called upon to censor backsliders like the Sunday driver, condemned by members who had done little to help a neighbor strengthen his new found interest in the church. They struggled to winnow charges founded in concern for a brother’s soul from those born of fear of outsiders’ tongues. Their letters bear witness that many of them brought well-trained minds as well as dedicated hearts to their work. The Evangelical Alliance, formed in London in 1846 to emphasize the core of common belief among Protestant denominations and to encourage cooperation among them in matters of mutual concern, was welcomed in many American church circles. Two of Nicholas Ridgely’s colleagues wrote of it with enthusiasm. One of these, while believing sects were necessary to reach all types of mind and to “check the corruption to which all large bodies are liable”, rejoiced in the possibilities this new meeting ground opened to the churches. There are many examples of mutual understanding and respect across denominational lines. A Methodist clergyman wrote that if either the Lutheran or the German Reformed churches in his town found a “regular and popular” minister his own precarious living would suffer and the Methodists might withdraw from the area; nevertheless, he thought that outcome might be best for the community. Charles I. duPont, in 1853, worked closely with other prominent

Protestants for "An Act granting to Roman Catholic Societies of this State all the franchises, rights and powers vested in other Religious Societies in this State", and was able to allay sectarian feeling that had endangered its passage. The following year he opposed the American Party because of "the proscription of all foreigners and particularly the poor oppressed Irish Catholics".

Such were a few of the religious attitudes that influenced the people who wrote and received the letters abstracted in this volume. There were also two significant social trends of this period that grew directly from religious convictions and were in many instances a church activity. The Sunday School movement, though by no means new in the midcentury, spread rapidly during those years. It attempted not only religious and ethical guidance like its modern counterpart, but secular instruction for children who could not attend the regular schools. Nicholas Ridgely and Daniel M. Bates took active parts in Sunday Schools in isolated country districts near Dover, where they believed the introduction of books would do great good both religiously and socially. Benjamin B. Comegys, of a Kent County, Delaware family, was engaged in the movement in Philadelphia, and Mr. duPont's cousin, Mrs. Victorine Bauduy, had been one of its pioneers in the Wilmington area. Bible study classes, also mentioned in these letters, were distinct from the Sunday Schools but corollary to them. The second major church-inspired movement was the organization of Temperance Societies. Their aim was actually not temperance but abstinence. Members included everyone who could be recruited. In the Ridgely family, the fourteen-year-old schoolgirl "Willie" and the middle-aged problem drinker Charles George both joined. The societies were to be found almost everywhere; mention of them occurs in letters from each community substantially represented in the Ridgely Collection during the middle decades of the century. As their membership range shows, they hoped to dissuade young people from beginning the use of intoxicants and to induce drinkers to stop. They also worked to limit the number of licensed taverns to those actually needed to accommodate travellers, to prohibit the sale of intoxicants on Sundays, and to achieve prohibition in specific communities by local option. The exact degree of their success in Delaware is not easy to determine. It seems certain, however, that they widened the circle in which excessive drinking was socially unacceptable.

One further religious aspect of the time deserves mention. The number of individuals who were not church members was considerable, and, in view of the importance accorded to membership, is somewhat surprising. There were not only the towns that to Methodist zealots seemed populated principally with "deists and universalists" and families who were "loud-mouthed infidels" to the fourth generation; there was much non-membership among those with conventional church backgrounds. In the Ridgely family itself, only Nicholas and Charles George had been confirmed within Nicholas' lifetime. Williamina Johnson, however, became a communicant after his death, and the interest Edward and Henry Ridgely and Ann duPont later took in church matters of various kinds implies that they also joined. When Henry M. Ridgely remarried, his bride's brother, admitting that he did not wholly approve, gave as a principal reason that Mr. Ridgely "could not be called a godly man". His own children's comments about him and his views nevertheless prove that he was by no means irreligious. Charles I. duPont likewise, to the sorrow of his more orthodox relatives, was not "devout". Both men were guided by ethical codes as rigid as any sect could have imposed, and each clearly possessed a philosophy religious in effect if not in name. In this they were undoubtedly representative of many thoughtful men of the time.

Except for matters immediately related to his marriage or his vocation, Rev. Nicholas Ridgely's letters may be more clearly understood in the framework of the world his family knew. That world comes into sharp focus in the correspondence centering about his sister Ann.

The marriage of Ann Ridgely and Charles I. duPont opens a chronicle of nearly sixty years of history in the two families, the longest single chapter in this *Calendar*. It is a story of many people, Mr. and Mrs. duPont themselves, their children and eventually their grandchildren, Mr. duPont's brother and two sisters with their families, Mrs. duPont's sister and five brothers with their families, along with innumerable unrelated associates of these various duPonts and Ridgelys. The unifying personality among them is Ann (Ridgely) duPont. The beginning of Ann Ridgely's life as Mrs. Charles Irene duPont was far from her first appearance in the *Calendar*. She had almost literally been born into its pages, skipped lightly through them as a little girl

and had become a major contributor at about the time she reached the dignity of young ladyhood. Her mother's invalidism and the death of her elder sister had forced her to become the real mistress of her father's home in her teens, a position she assumed formally at Mrs. Ridgely's death when the daughter was not quite twenty-two. Because of this, there was a peculiarly intimate relationship between Ann and her younger brothers and sisters, an important element in the family solidarity that existed among most of Henry M. Ridgely's descendants throughout, and beyond, her lifetime. Retaining her identity as a Ridgely did not, however, prevent her from becoming one of the closely-knit duPont community along the banks of the Brandywine.

The duPont family² which welcomed Ann Ridgely were all the descendants, or relatives, of Pierre Samuel duPont de Nemours, French economist and philosopher who had arrived in the United States on New Year's Day, 1800, with two grown sons and their families. During the four decades that followed the father and sons had died, but most of the eleven cousins who had come to the Brandywine Valley as children or had been born after their parents settled there still lived nearby, the majority of them by this time with growing families of their own. Nearly all the men born into the duPont family, along with several who had married into it, were engaged in one capacity or another in one of two businesses started by the immigrant brothers. The earlier of the ventures was a powder works pioneered by Eleuthere Irenee duPont. In 1841 this was a thriving industry which supported his sons and their dependents in comfort, if also in considerable physical danger, but gave no indication of the giant proportions to which it would grow in the twentieth century. The other enterprise was a woolen textile mill founded by Victor duPont, father of Charles. At the time of his marriage to Ann Ridgely, its management had long been in the son's hands. Contemporaries described Charles I. duPont's generation of the family as cultivated, intelligent, public-spirited men and women who combined a warm patriotism toward the United States with sentimental attachment to many customs and traditions of France. Mrs. Charles I. duPont's brother remarked upon the "kindness and affection as well as the taste and intelligence" of

² For a more detailed account of the duPont family see the biographical sketch of Charles I. duPont prefacing Chapter II, and the bibliography listed there.

the family she had entered, while a friend commented at about the same time upon how unusual it was "in our go-ahead country" to find "a society of congenial minds large enough for enjoyment without going beyond . . . near relatives", a privilege the duPonts enjoyed.

Charles I. duPont himself, though three years old when his family came to the United States to settle, was American-born, for his father had been in the country in the French Consular Service during much of the previous decade. The boy's formal education appears to have been excellent, but it terminated rather early, when he was needed in the family textile business. This he learned thoroughly, and when its direction came into his hands, he managed it both prudently and conscientiously, but he never loved it as several of his cousins did the explosives manufacturing to which they were raised. His life, after he entered his father's mill, had been one of faithful application to the firm's interests, brightened by a happy marriage to Dorcas Van Dyke, daughter of United States Senator Nicholas Van Dyke, and affection for their three children, Victor, Charles Jr., and Mary. He took great pride, too, in his beloved younger brother "Frank", Samuel Francis duPont, later a Rear-Admiral, who had been spared from the mill to pursue a naval career, a calling Charles, too, had wanted to follow. The death of Dorcas (Van Dyke) duPont, in 1838, left her husband a lonely widower in his home at "Louviers", where, as time passed, his concern for his teen-age children increased despite the affectionate supervision given by their "Aunt Sophie", his brother's wife who was also his first cousin.

At this point in his life, the interest Charles I. duPont had long taken in public affairs led to his election to the State Senate in 1840. Early in 1841 he took his seat at Dover, where chance dictated the renewal of an old acquaintance with Henry M. Ridgely, an invitation to his home, and introduction to his daughter Ann. Miss Ridgely was then barely twenty-six, eighteen years Mr. duPont's junior, but she combined with great charm of person and manner the maturity bred of long responsibility. The courtship which followed hard on their meeting was dramatic enough to give all the gossips of Dover, male and female alike, delightful conversation for weeks. The couple first met in January or February; during the first week of May they were married.

A family story gives the reason for Ann Ridgely's choice. One afternoon not long after Miss Ridgely and Mr. duPont had met, the famous abolitionist, Lucretia Mott, was threatened with violence when she attempted to speak from the courthouse steps in Dover. Henry M. Ridgely, though a slaveholder and a Southern sympathizer, insisted she receive a hearing, appeared with her while she spoke, and afterward entertained her over night at his home. Among the company present for the evening were Mr. duPont and a young suitor upon whom Ann was looking with some favor. In the course of conversation Mrs. Mott rose during an animated discussion, and, taking her seat again while still engrossed in her subject, missed her chair completely. The young man laughed; Mr. duPont helped the lady to her feet with a graciousness that banished her embarrassment. Ann Ridgely at that moment accepted, in her own mind, the one who had proved himself a gentleman. Nor did she ever have reason to regret her decision. Mr. duPont proved a tender, understanding husband with a touch of humor which eased the rough spots on their road. One of her brothers characterized him as "the kindest man alive". Together they enjoyed a complete companionship, intellectual as well as emotional, that enriched their lives while both lived and left Mrs. duPont a legacy of happy memories in her widowhood. There is every evidence of warm friendship between the children of Mr. duPont's first marriage and their stepmother, while with her husband's well-loved sister-in-law, Sophie duPont, she established the closest fellowship. Indeed, Mr. and Mrs. duPont's mutual regard for nearly all of the other's kinsmen was, no doubt, an ingredient of the compatability which prompted Charles I. duPont to write to his wife of many years, "It is really unfashionable to love one another as we do".

Ann (Ridgely) duPont's story is a continuous one from her marriage at twenty-six until her death at eighty-three, but its background can be more clearly sketched in shorter spans. The death of Charles I. duPont in January 1869 divides it into two distinct segments of nearly equal length.

Although Mrs. duPont's husband was the dominating personality in her world throughout his life, there was a rather large circle of relatives whose affairs were closely entwined with her own. The couple's two children, a daughter christened Amelia Elizabeth but always called Amie, and a son Henry Ridgely duPont, grew through babyhood, schooldays, late youth and into

young adulthood during their father's lifetime. At his death, Amie was already the wife of her second cousin Eugene duPont and the mother of a little daughter, Anne Ridgely duPont, while her brother Harry, at twenty, was a student of law. Victor and Charles I. duPont, Jr., the sons of Mr. duPont's first wife, who had been schoolboys of eleven and thirteen when their father remarried, were, by 1869, long established in the business world. Both, too, were husbands and fathers. Their sister, Mary duPont, who did not marry, remained a member of her father's household. Mr. duPont's brother and sister-in-law, "Frank" and Sophie duPont, were close neighbors and intimate friends of the entire Charles I. duPont family. To an only slightly less degree so, too, were his sisters, cousins and the families of each. The Ridgelys also played a prominent part in life at "Louviers" and in the correspondence of 1841-69. Mrs. duPont's father, Henry M. Ridgely, lived through nearly the first decade of his daughter's marriage. His long illness in 1846-1847, the settlement of his estate, and the cool relationship between his children and his widow dominated his daughter Ann duPont's correspondence, indeed, for a period of more than two years. Ann (Ridgely) duPont's sister "Willie" and brother Ned were both virtual members of the duPont family while each was at school in Wilmington, and in later years both, with their families, held an especially warm spot in her heart. "Willie", as Mrs. Alexander Johnson, was the mother of six children of whom four, Harry, "Lizzie", Nicholas and Annie appear in the letters. Edward Ridgely's children were Harriet, Sally, Edward Jr., and Henry. They are usually referred to as "Ned's family" at this period, but later each assumes some individuality in the story. In contrast to the almost mother-and-child relationship between Mrs. duPont and this youngest brother and sister, there was a marked lack of cordiality between her and her eldest brother, Charles George, whose periodic intemperance she found hard to forgive, and whose wife she disliked. After his death in 1844 his widow and two small sons are seldom referred to. With the three brothers near her own age, and the families of each, she was on the best of terms. Dr. Henry Ridgely's family were his wife Virginia, their daughter Ruthanna, and a son and daughter, "Jonty" and Sally, who died as small children. Rev. Nicholas Ridgely with his beloved, impractical Mary, and their two children, Henry M. Ridgely II and Mollie, are prominent figures in the correspond-

ence. Mollie Ridgely became a member of her Aunt Ann duPont's household when she was about ten years old. Whimsical Eugene Ridgely, his wife Mary Ann and son Daniel, also appear in the chronicle from time to time.

Nothing really extraordinary happened to any of these men, women and young people, Ridgelys or duPonts, although each of them who lived beyond childhood had a busy life with its normal measure of laughter and tears.³ Among the group were those who faced the problems of manufacturers in fluctuating markets; the well-to-do farmer and the struggling beginner; the ambitious law student and young lawyer with both the advantage and the drawback of a surname already distinguished in his profession; the spiritually-minded clergyman beset with troubles born of conscience, poverty and the physical demands of his work; the \$600.00-a-year bank clerk and the bank director. The building of railroads and raising of families, the reclamation of abused land and of disordered lives, were topics of vital interest in the letters that passed between them. Of the mature woment prominent in the account, all but Mary duPont were housewives and mothers, responsible for the hundred details of family management, Ann herself in a well-to-do suburban home, her sister "Willie" Johnson and sister-in-law Virginia Ridgely on prosperous farms which nonetheless demanded much of the mistress, and Mary Ridgely in the succession of rented domiciles within the means of a young Methodist minister's wife and widow. Births, deaths, marriages, flirtations, friendships of long or short duration, the day-to-day details of business, home-making, and public service, the training of children, and the pursuit of ambitions, made up the lives of the two families.

These three decades of Ridgely and duPont family history had a backdrop of momentous developments in the nation as a whole. Between 1840 and 1870 the United States increased tremendously in territory and population. It was profoundly altered by large scale application of industrial techniques which scientists and businessmen had been developing. Shifting economic conditions brought comparable political and social changes. The country was torn by economic and sectional frictions which led in time to civil war, and by 1870 had started its rapid recovery from that conflict. Within these three decades Texas, the Rocky

³ See biographical sketches prefacing the chapters of Volumes II and III for more detailed records of many of these individuals.

Mountain region, the Pacific coast and Alaska were acquired. The population more than doubled, from just over seventeen million in 1840 to thirty-eight and a half million in 1870, with an increase from 1850 to 1860 alone nearly equal to the entire population of 1820. Its makeup, too, began to alter. Though American immigration, from the very beginning, had been drawn from many nationalities, English, Scotch and Northern Irish provided the predominant element among new residents in most earlier years. In the period under consideration, however, Southern Irish and Germans became the largest single groups of newcomers. In many sections, such newcomers were numerous enough to make assimilation difficult, and to arouse fierce antagonism among older residents. The Negro population, although it grew rapidly in absolute numbers, declined slightly in proportion to the whole. The gross population, indeed, despite its tremendous increase, grew at a somewhat slower rate than in the previous generation.

In many other phases of the nation's life a decreasing rate of change nevertheless wrought fantastic alterations in everyday conditions of life. All the major elements of industrialization were present before 1840. Power machinery adapted to manufacturing, farming, and transportation by land and water had been introduced. Corporate financing was an accepted means of sharing large risks. The segment of the population committed to free labor already outweighed the group dependent upon chattel slavery. Thirty years later the one thing really new, from a material point of view, was the conquest of time through telegraph and cable. Yet the whole climate of the country had altered. The little spurs of railroad that in 1840 linked only town and town, with constant breaks and transfers if one planned a long journey, had been welded into substantial systems. It was possible to go by rail from coast to coast. Steamships whose feasibility for ocean crossing without auxiliary sail had, in 1840, only recently been demonstrated were, long before 1870, the accepted means of travel for passengers and fast freight. Industrial towns dotted the north and northwest, their size and influence in their localities enormously increased, their products multiplied, their productivity per worker expanding. The combination of farm machinery and western railroads had opened up the Mississippi Valley to farmers who soon came to supply eastern grain markets at a rate that would have been incredible

not long before. This section, indeed, soon became the dominant agricultural area of the country. Slavery, in 1840, had appeared more firmly entrenched economically, politically and emotionally than it had been in 1800; in 1870 it was gone.

The Presidents of the United States through these thirty years were: Harrison, Tyler, Polk, Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan, Lincoln, Johnson and Grant,⁴ whose very names recall the political turmoil stirred up as Americans struggled to solve the problems of expansion, population growth and new economic situations. Annexation of Texas, a diplomatic contest with England over possession of the Pacific Northwest, and the Mexican War marked the first decade. The second was filled with angry controversy over tariffs, western land policies, industrial versus agricultural interests in innumerable guises, and, dramatizing and embittering all other cleavages was the status of slavery. Some insisted this institution must be wiped out, more wanted it barred from the newly acquired territories and still others defended it as the natural order of life. There was difficulty, too, in assimilating the immigrants as rapidly as they arrived, giving rise to frictions expressed in the Ku Klux Klanlike "American" or "Know-Nothing" Party. The decade of 1860-1870 is so familiar it scarcely requires even a reminder of the losses in men, property and good will the Civil War entailed, and the early reconstruction years when idealists, profiteers, feudists and moderate men seeking to "bind up the Nation's wounds" all struggled for the controlling voice in setting the new patterns the times demanded.

The dynamic social ideas of the late eighteenth century and the practical experiments of the earlier nineteenth, were, like their physical counterparts, applied with a wider scope in the middle nineteenth century though few fundamentally new ideas were introduced. The public schools evolved from an encouraging experiment to an accepted institution offering steadily expanding services. Private education on all levels also flourished. The first successfully established colleges for women and all but a very few of the early coeducational ventures belong to this period. Efforts to educate the mentally normal deaf and blind

⁴ Neither the first nor the last were actually in office during the married life of Charles I. and Ann duPont; Harrison was inaugurated and died during their courtship, and Grant was elected but not yet inaugurated when Mr. duPont died.

multiplied. Programs for training the feeble-minded to the limit of their capacity and for intelligent care of the insane were introduced in many places. The trend toward a broader suffrage and generally wider application of democratic theories continued to make progress. If the applications were broader, so too was the opposition to innovation. In areas where a good adjustment was not worked out, conditions were often, according to many students of the period, less satisfactory than they had been earlier. The lot of the slave, for instance, is said to have been a harder one in the years shortly before abolition than it had been early in the century. The lives of industrial workers, farmhands and small farmers, native and foreign-born, were in many instances certainly not to be envied. Religious bigotry, racial intolerance and discrimination against recent immigrants flourished in industrial or social situations already explosive from deep-seated clashes of interest. It was, in short, an intensely alive era in American history marked by spectacular successes and failures in dealing with the problems of a growing country. Their solutions, whether good or bad, remained a part of our modern social structure.

The correspondence of a Delaware family active in public affairs in this generation could scarcely escape reflecting much of the national situation so briefly sketched here. Delaware itself, despite its small size, was both Northern and Southern, industrial and agricultural, slave and free. It had readily accessible and isolated areas, as well as regions of fast and slow growth. Sectionalism, race relations, assimilation of immigrants, industrial adjustments, and realignments brought about by possession or lack of good transportation facilities, were all pressing local problems. Its social scene was equally representative. Nearly the whole range of principle, prejudice and economic interest that shaped up the great national controversies of the day were present in Delaware; almost every major issue found supporters, foes and compromisers among the State's voters. The most dramatic division of this sort came in the Civil War period, when impassioned Unionists, acknowledged or covert secessionists and men who wished Delaware to remain loyal but opposed coercing the South all took part in the debates on public policy.

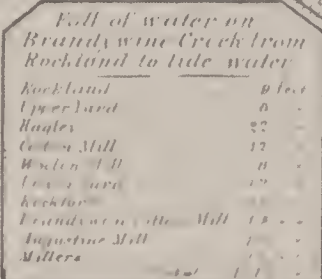
The Ridgely-duPont letters show this mid-nineteenth century world as it appeared to a group of intelligent men and women of business, farming, and professional families with

varying political, social and religious viewpoints. During much of the period, too, they present a study in the contrasts between the immediate vicinity of Wilmington and the central part of the State.

Wilmington assumes, in this portion of the *Calendar*, the importance Dover held in earlier chapters as the home of the family whose letters supply the main thread of the story. The town's two-hundred-year history; its convenient location on a range of low, steep hills at the juncture of the Christina with its deep anchorage, and the swift Brandywine so adapted to water-powered industry; the diversified manufactures which developed in the neighborhood; and the steady, rapid growth of the community have all been touched upon in tracing earlier Ridgely generations. In 1841 Wilmington had but recently been incorporated as a city, a dignity to which its approximately eighty-five hundred residents gave it a reasonable claim. Manufacturing, local trade, and shipping, with the service trades and professions the town's own people required, provided its major occupations. In 1840, its railway connection with Philadelphia and Baltimore had been in operation but three years. The use of steam in industrial processes, especially in milling, came early in the neighborhood of Wilmington and developed rapidly. Socially the community's atmosphere was still that of a large village. A directory compiled in 1845 lists sixteen religious congregations, representing Baptists, Episcopalians, Friends, several sects of Methodists, Presbyterians and Roman Catholics. There were two public schools, one at Sixth and French Streets, the other on Twelfth Street between Market and Orange, enrolling between them three hundred seventy-two students; there were also a number of prosperous private schools, some of them with more than a local reputation; and a library association owning some twenty-five hundred books. Wilmington was accustomed to amateur dramatics and had had several seasons of professional theatre. There is evidence of interest in music and art, mostly on an amateur plane, and a long tradition of fine craftsmanship that approached art on the manufacturing level. Many of its houses, even in the downtown section, still stood on spacious sites surrounded by fine gardens. The Wilmington of 1840 was the product of a half century of rapid growth, industrialization and development of social and cultural patterns long rooted in the community. During the remainder of Mr. duPont's life its ex-

pansion in size and industrial potential continued at the same rate, so that by 1869 it was a very different city indeed from what it had been thirty years earlier. A census of June 1869, which its sponsors considered conservative, showed a population approaching thirty-two thousand, nearly a four-fold increase since 1840. Its industries were still diversified, with construction of ships, railway cars, light machinery and machine tools, milling, and the manufacture of explosives, papers, textiles, morocco and leather goods, and construction materials among those of considerable importance. Trade with the surrounding countryside, shipping to nearby and distant points by rail or water, and the customary professional men, trades-people and craftsmen rounded out a prosperous business community. Wilmington of 1870 was linked by rail with most other important centers of the United States. The town had spread in all directions except south, where marshes blocked its growth. Its industrial processes were coming to rely far less than they had done earlier upon water power. Within this span of years the composition of the population showed the same changes that have been noted nationally. Even in the seventeenth century the neighborhood had attracted settlers of varied nationalities and had throughout its history drawn its new residents from many parts of the world. Nonetheless, most of the newcomers through the first third of the nineteenth century were of English, Scotch or Northern Irish stock. After 1840 there were many years when Germans and Southern Irish predominated, so that these groups soon became important segments in the population. During the same period the town's two public schools had become a system with eleven schools in service, nine of which taught primary grades and two the grammar grades. There was a "school for teachers" meeting "on alternate Saturdays". Board of Education minutes indicate that one member, in 1869, was urging introduction of "the highest grades" under a competent male teacher. Public School enrollment grew from 372 in 1845 to 2,052 in 1861 and 5,920 by 1873. Many neighborhood churches of Wilmington also date from the years 1840-1870, as older congregations grew too large and scattered for convenience. In 1869 there were thirty-nine churches in the *Wilmington Directory*. Lutherans, Swedenborgians, Unitarians and Universalists had been added to the denominations represented at the beginning of the period.

Scale 100 rods to the inch



MAP OF BRANDYWINE BANKS SHOWING THE DUPONT MILLS AND HOMES

Wilmington began very early to have suburban areas which were in a sense integral parts of the community yet had their own identities. Such a spot was the one the letters refer to as “the Brandywine”, where most of the duPont family of Charles I. duPont’s time lived and worked. It lies approximately three miles from the oldest section of Wilmington, on both sides of the stream in the vicinity of the present villages of Henry Clay, Rockland and Montchanin. The creek at this point flows through a valley so narrow and steep-sided as to be almost a gorge. On the east bank were the original woolen mills, and almost opposite them, on the west bank, stood the oldest powder mill. Farther downstream was a larger textile mill and the Hagley powder mills, both the property of the duPont family concerns. Overlooking the Brandywine, about half-way up the steep hill on its eastern bank, stood “Louviers”, a large house of French design constructed in 1811 by Charles I. duPont’s father. While its gardens and grounds insured it considerable privacy, clusters of workmen’s houses were in the immediate vicinity, and at the top of the hill was another duPont home, occupied at various periods by Mr. duPont’s sisters and by his brother, Samuel Francis duPont. Across the creek stood the dwelling E. I. duPont had built shortly after his arrival in Delaware, with its grounds, its complement of workmen’s quarters convenient to the powder mills, and, by 1840, the homes of several of Charles I. duPont’s cousins. Both above and below the eventually extensive duPont holdings were other mills, the owners and products of which changed through the years. The “Louviers” neighborhood made up a busy community against the rural setting of stream and wooded hills, secluded enough to develop a distinctive way of life yet near enough to Wilmington for easy intercourse.⁵ The family letters of the period, too, picture “Louviers” in its dual role of suburban home and business site.

There are, however, few passages giving much description of the house and grounds in Charles I. and Ann duPont’s time, since most of the letters mentioning “Louviers” passed between those who knew it well. There is an occasional glimpse of a well-tended garden, whose fine roses were its mistress’ pride, and from which she shared roots and cuttings with family and friends. Mr. duPont, sending an encouraging message to his

⁵ D. G. Beers, *Atlas of the State of Delaware*, published Philadelphia, 1868, contains a large-scale map of this area under the name Brandywine Banks.

daughter Mary when she was seriously ill away from home, wrote that he was confident she would be weeding and tending the strawberry bed with his wife in the spring. To Ann herself, during other absences, he told of the catbirds' depredations in the berry garden at dawn; of good or poor yields, of seeing that the strawberries and raspberries were properly worked in the fall, and assured her that at the dairy all went "as if you were here". There was a chestnut tree in the garden from which the family gathered "three or four baskets" of nuts on the day a boy was employed to "beat" it, and from which the nuts were still dropping "like rain" several days later. Picking berries, weeding and cultivating the flower beds and harvesting the nuts were tasks that visiting nephews and nieces shared with Mrs. duPont and the young people of the household. There are occasional allusions to paths on either side of the creek which offered pleasant walks to the family and their guests. There was, curiously, no bridge across the stream near this point until the spring of 1864, when Mrs. duPont could report to her son, away at school, that "the boat and cable have had their day".

Of the interior arrangement of the house and its furnishings during the years of Charles I. duPont's marriage to Ann Ridgely the records likewise tell surprisingly little. The inventory of Mr. duPont's estate alludes to but six rooms: dining room, parlor, entry, library, "Mrs. duPont's room", and storeroom. The correspondence relating to "Louviers" implies a substantially larger house, with bedrooms for a family of at least six and space for guests. One must, therefore, infer the existence of rooms whose contents were not technically part of the estate.⁶ The furniture accounted for in the inventory, moreover, was not itemized but simply appraised, room by room, to a total of three hundred thirty-seven dollars. The china, glass and silver, and three family portraits, were valued at six hundred seventy dollars. The family letters also supply only a few facts about the furnishings at "Louviers" when Ann (Ridgely) duPont was its mistress. There

⁶ Since, as the letters indicate, Charles I. duPont had presented to Dorcas Van Dyke's children property inherited through her family and to Ann Ridgely's issue land bought from her father's estate, it may also be true that he had distributed much of his personal goods among his heirs in his lifetime. Otherwise, it is hard to reconcile the valuation of his housefurnishings with the letters' references to life at "Louviers". Although he did not consider himself rich, he was in comfortable circumstances and clearly lived on a scale impossible in a six-room house with barely a thousand dollars worth of furniture.

was a "pretty hemp carpet" purchased in 1856. The next year the duPonts, in planning a journey that would take them through Philadelphia, arranged their time so that they could choose an "entry oil cloth" together. The same fall, during Mrs. duPont's absence because of family illness, her husband supervised a housecleaning of her room and had the carpet laid, to spare her a tiring task on her return. He reported that "The carpet in your room makes it look more comfortable and when you get something to cover over the old boxes it will look quite well even without a Jenny Lind bedstead". A painting described as "a sketch of two children" was purchased in 1854. Daguerreotypes and miniatures of various ones of the family were acquired from time to time; Charles I. duPont also owned portraits of his grandfather Pierre Samuel duPont and his own parents, Victor and Josephine duPont. The single specific fact the letters mention about the reading habits of the household is the presence there of *Harpers Weekly*, but everything known of its members' tastes implies that the room called a library was well stocked with books. An early letter in the duPont series mentions an excellent collection belonging to Mr. duPont's cousin, Mrs. Victorine Bauduy, whose books were, no doubt, available to his family in addition to those he himself owned.

Many anecdotes illustrate the tenor of life along the Brandywine during the period of Charles I. duPont's second marriage. It was, first of all, a family life. During his wife's first absence, a brief one when she had preceded him and the children to Dover by a few days, he wrote: "I have notwithstanding my many avocations which have been incessant since you left me had no satisfaction whatever, and 'Louviers' is at this time a disagreeable place to live in, I feel much more contented in Philadelphia or Wilmington or anywhere else." A large portion of the letter, characteristically, concerns plans for his children and "Willie" Ridgely, then a visitor at "Louviers". All four were to accompany him to Dover for ceremonies in memory of the Revolutionary hero, Colonel John Haslet; their presence complicated other plans, leading Mr. duPont to remark ruefully, "these large children are very annoying at times, much more so than babies". As a postscript he added, "As we have beautiful moonlight nights, I will, if the weather is good . . . take the children down myself & think we can reach Dover by 8 o'clock. Do not wait tea for us but be prepared for a 2nd exertion." The following summer,

when his wife had taken their five-month-old daughter, Amie, for a visit to Dover, he wrote, at the beginning of a page of affectionate banter: "I would give a great deal to see you now if we had nothing else to do but to sit down & admire the baby, wondering whether any such a little prodigy ever before existed . . . I am getting quite vain to find that I am so much missed, but old men will always spoil Children and you have indeed been a pet of mine." A little later, when Amie was a prattling toddler, her sister Mary reported the tot's activities and amusing remarks to her mother, absent for a few days in Dover, and told in detail how she and Mr. duPont were caring for her. There was, apparently, a maid or nurse, for when Mary came home from tea "up the hill" at Aunt Sophie duPont's she found Amie amusing the girl by singing "At Lindenwald", a favorite song of the Ridgely household. Her care, however, was a family responsibility, not a servant's task: It was Mary who undressed the child, her father who reassured her when she wondered if mamma was outside alone in the dark, and who took her into his own room to sleep. When her little sister was four Mary wrote: "Amie often asks when you will be home but seems very well contented with me. Her chief amusement for these last few days [in early April] has been playing in that heap of sand near the cellar doors, so that I have a great deal of trouble keeping her fit to be seen as you may suppose. She has been out visiting with me very often and behaves herself very well when out. I took her to church with me Sunday and she stayed very quietly all the time. But when the organ began she said in a whisper, 'Sissy I guess that is the polka' and commenced dancing. Nobody saw her, fortunately. Then when the Bishop preached she mimicked all his gesticulations, first with one hand and then with the other. You may be sure I was much amused".

Nor was the family news of the period all of Amie. Victor and Charles, Jr., were home from school, Victor proud of his success with a speech. Mary told of a delightful trip to West Point with one of her cousins, accompanied as far as New York by cousin Alfred duPont. There had been interesting visitors to tea at Uncle Frank duPont's. Charles I. duPont himself and Mary were finding it impossible to discipline a servant lad while Mrs. duPont was away; a young duPont cousin had bought "a petite drawn silk bonnet loaded with flowers and costing *ten dollars*". Mary and Amie felt shabby at church because they

had been late with spring shopping and had not yet gotten their new bonnets. "Papa", though nearly always rushed with affairs at the mill or his civic concerns, seldom failed to send loving, whimsical messages to any of the family who might be from home. Mary, noticing a child in a becoming blue-checked cloak, immediately started planning a similar one for her little sister. Mrs. duPont herself was teased about having "had a sewing streak on". Such was the fabric of the days at "Louviers" when Ann duPont was a young wife.

As the years passed, and Henry Ridgely duPont, born in 1848, grew into a little boy, the letters tell of his accompanying his father to bring home a new lamb; of his being a great favorite "up the hill" where Aunt Sophie duPont taught him the basic moves at chess when he was scarcely four years old, and later, when he was about nine, talked to him of navigation and the stars, subjects he found far more interesting than what he learned at school. The same little boy was delighted with a gift of jackstraws and a promised bow and arrow. He once had a "story book" beloved or notable enough to lead his uncle Edward Ridgely, some dozen years later, to seek one for this own little daughter. Its title, unfortunately, was not mentioned. Along with the glimpses of the duPont home through the eyes of members of the family and close friends, is another from the pen of the Irish nursemaid who had cared for Harry in his infancy. When the duPonts employed her, she had been a frightened immigrant girl, neglected by her few American acquaintances and rebuffed by strangers. But on the Brandywine she had met with a courtesy and kindness that restored her confidence and made her stay here happy. The occasion for her letter, some sixteen years after her return to Ireland to find happiness and prosperity with her waiting lover, was to inquire for the duPonts' safety during the Civil War.

The family aspects of life at "Louviers" did not end with Charles I. duPont's immediate household but included all his nearby kinsfolk. Bound to him by an especially "tender affection" was his brother "Frank" whose home stood nearer his own than any other of the duPont dwellings. Visits "up the hill" to his house were a part of the daily routine for Charles' family, sometimes for the sake of the visit alone, sometimes for Charles and Ann to help Sophie duPont during her sailor husband's long absences at sea, and sometimes for the childless

Sophie to share in both the responsibility and the enjoyment of her cousin-brother-in-law's sons and daughters. Charles I. duPont's sisters, Amelia, whose early marriage had proved brief and tragic; and Julia, who had married a naval officer, Irvine Shubrick, are less clearly defined figures in the correspondence than "Frank" and his wife, but they and their children were nonetheless of great importance in the scheme of life at "Lou-viers". One of Mrs. Shubrick's sons, Thomas Shubrick, like his father a naval officer, was almost a member of his Uncle Charles' household during a winter of shore duty, when he proved himself a gay playfellow for four-year-old Amie, a handsome, charming, spirited companion for the cousins near his own age, and a favorite with his uncle and aunt. His death a few months later, at the siege of Vera Cruz, proved so bitter a grief to Mary duPont that one wonders if a marriage between them was planned. Between Charles I. duPont's family and his cousins "across the creek" there was also the closest association. The letters bear witness to constant visits, to small gifts and little services between the families, and to assistance and comfort in times of real emergency. There was sometimes criticism as well. Mary duPont more than once reported that she or a cousin had received a stern lecture on "Brandywine propriety" after some mild flirtation, or that the family thought her stepmother "so indiscreet" for some of the privileges she had allowed the nineteen-year-old girl. Charles I. duPont himself may have either expressed criticism of some of his cousins or regret at his own course with Mary when he wrote: "How much folly there is in bringing up the children of the so-called Rich in this country, labour is necessary to develop strength as air is necessary for life, rubbing & scrubbing, spinning & weaving & cutting wood at the kitchen door, carrying water $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, are estimated hardships by many, but the blessings of health accompany them and [are] denied to the little girls who are made to sit at a piano thumping a sonata for 2 or 3 hours a day."

Usually, however, the allusions to interfamily association were happy ones; Mary with Paulina and Evalina duPont, had been to have her fortune read; Harry had been making excuses to stay home from school in order to spend his time with Aunt Sophie; or Amie "is now at home stewing apples for Lamott duPont who is to take tea with Charlie tonight". One evidence that a very large portion of duPont social life was carried on

within the family circle, and that it was for the most part congenial, was the number of cousin marriages throughout the middle half of the century. Of Charles I. duPont's five children, only Victor married outside the family. Charles, Jr., and Amie chose second cousins, while Mary and Henry remained single. There were comparable intermarriages among all the duPonts of the period.

In the correspondence there are many reminders that "Lou-viers" stood in the midst of a major industrial area despite its rural beauty. The most vivid appears in a letter Ann (Ridgely) duPont wrote to her cousin Helen (Davis) Ruff on March 15, 1847: ". . . yesterday morning, about six o'clock, we had the most awful explosion of the powder mills. I was not up. Mr. duPont had just risen. To describe the horror of the scene would be impossible. It was a bright morning, one of those days when nature seems to be full of smiles and I was debating whether I would lose in sleep these sweet hours or get up; in an instant, without the slightest warning, there came a shock that seemed so terrifick in its nature that I could only compare it to the meeting of heaven and earth, it appeared not to be local but a crash of the world, our window sashes, chairs, ceiling all in the twinkling of an eye laid prostrate, the concussion, the breaking of glass, and furniture, the horrid reports of the powder, the flash and the sudden pressure of the atmosphere, with the bursting of the doors, all formed a combination of horrors that can only be surpassed by that awful day we have all yet to see. After the first instant of the explosion I looked up and found my husband pale and bleeding; it was, however, only a scratch from a piece of broken glass; he was pale from fear of his family on the other side. He knew not who was spared, yet a kind Providence saved them all, though their houses are dreadfully shattered. *We* have but one habitable room and that is made so by carpets & blankets nailed to the windows and I have written this letter at 11 o'clock in the day by candlelight. While we have thankful hearts for the safety of those dear to us we must mourn for the grief of the families who have lost husbands and fathers in this calamity. The shrieks of the wives and the children so soon made widows and orphans rose in sad succession to the preceding horror, human heads, arms and feet were found on that peaceful looking bank of the Brandywine where you and I have walked. The mills exploded were those opposite that walk,

do you remember it? It is as you go past Mr. duPont's office and the factory." Explosions, though rare, were a constant threat; several occurred during the years when Ann and Charles I. duPont lived at "Louviers", and at least one other shook the house badly.

Mr. duPont's own less dramatic business also held an important spot in the community along the Brandywine, with many reflections in the correspondence until his retirement in 1856. The plant involved hard physical work at times, for he understood every detail of its operation and worked side by side with his men when personal supervision was needed. He was nearly fifty when he told his wife of having spent all day at the repair of a millwheel, four hours of it in the race itself. He was concerned about the welfare of his men, in one instance searching his sons' closets for warm clothing for "one of our Factory Boys who is working among wet cloth in summer attire" in mid-October. Both Ann and Charles I. duPont were deeply distressed when a newly hired hand fell dead at his work while his children were running to the mill gate to greet him at closing time. Ann duPont wrote a few days later that she was making a dress for one of the little girls, and that her husband, who could bear to see no suffering he could prevent, had arranged for the family to remain in their plant-owned house through the approaching winter and would make further provisions for them. His interest in the problems of Catholics in a predominantly Protestant society undoubtedly stemmed from his contacts with his own workmen, many of them recent Irish immigrants. The mill brought Mr. duPont other problems than the maintenance of his plant and his relations with his employees. His correspondence and personal papers include a few relating to spinning jennies, mules and similar equipment. Several of the letters to his family were occasioned by trips to "see what progress & improvement is making" in the textile business elsewhere. He knew the problems of fluctuating markets and uncertain credit situations. He could write to his wife, in a bantering mood, that if the Whigs won the coming election, maybe the duPonts might reap a fine Kersey contract, employ French instead of Irish cooks, go to Newport to "recreate a little" and "die rich yet". In actual fact, the need to supervise work on a large contract for Army blankets which he had already secured prevented his accepting a proffered United States Senatorship

when his party did win. Although Charles I. duPont was not subject as his cousins were to spectacular loss from every chance spark, fire was nonetheless a special hazard for him also; on at least one occasion there was serious damage at his plant. He had but recently delivered a large order which had been forcing him to night shifts to meet a contract date, a circumstance that saved him from disaster.

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He was again fortunate in the date of his retirement, for had it been delayed less than twenty months he would have been gravely embarrassed by the failure, during a business panic, of a firm with which he had extensive dealings. One of his letters, written shortly after his retirement, contains an analysis of the problems facing textile manufacturers in America. He believed that the worst threat to their solvency lay in a credit structure which encouraged production for speculation and even as a basis for loans, rather than to meet the genuine demands of trade. Manufacturers were thus vulnerable to the slightest fluctuation in credit, and had to purchase their raw materials in a market forced up by artificial demands. While this condition existed, he believed that tariff regulations and other legislative panaceas were useless; sudden fluctuations in tariff rates, indeed, were probably a greater long-term danger than no protection at all. A second serious matter was the lack of variety in American textiles; but this he considered inevitable, for fabrics requiring complicated machinery and much skilled labor could not compete with European production while our expanding economy offered such premiums for venture capital and skilled men in other fields. A colleague who clearly looked on Mr. duPont as a kindred spirit complained in 1856 that "Our character as a nation is not reflective of future consequences", that indeed both the law and business custom encouraged "selfish action for the time being". It was no doubt considerations such as this that led Charles I. duPont to write to his son Charles, then seeking a Federal appointment, "I do hope you will succeed for the idea of you spending your days as I have mine in manufacturing is not desirable." Again, when a son was thinking of resigning from "the firm", he urged him to use his own judgment, provided only that he should time his withdrawal to avoid all unfairness to others; the young man's indifference to financial considerations he found praiseworthy but unusual "in the race of accumulation which seems to per-

vade all minds in this country". Mr. duPont's choice of a major investment for his years of retirement accords with his previous preferences. He had been a business man whose planning reckoned social costs along with financial ones, he had a keen interest in new methods and ideas, and he believed in building for tomorrow, as well as today. Rebuilding neglected Kent County farmland gave broad scope to these tastes.

Kent County, although in the correspondence of the mid-century it yields first place to northern Delaware, nevertheless remained very prominent in the chronicle, both because of Charles I. duPont's interests and because his wife's family continued to live there. Her brothers Henry, Eugene and Edward Ridgely all lived in or near Dover, while her sister Williamina, as Mrs. Alexander Johnson, lived on a farm in Mispillion Hundred. Interchange of visits and letters between the five families therefore kept central Delaware much in the foreground of letters Charles and Ann duPont wrote or received.

Since the neighborhood was more identified with Henry M. Ridgely than with any single one of his children in the decade 1840-1850, a detailed description for that period has already been presented in volume II of this *Calendar*. Kent County at that time was just rallying from thirty years decline in productivity, population and business activity. Steamships calling at Smyrna, Dona Landing and Milford provided the chief means of transportation. In many respects the area appears to have been more isolated from the general stream of national life than it had been a half-century earlier. On the other hand, certain changes had already occurred which would soon reverse this trend. Efforts to have a railway constructed down the peninsula had revived after an earlier failure to finance the venture. Conservationists were beginning to win a hearing for scientific agriculture, partly on the basis of theory but more from demonstrations of its possibilities by such men as Charles I. duPont and Dr. Henry Ridgely. Public schools, which had slowly entrenched themselves in community life since their introduction in 1829, improved steadily although their performance varied widely from year to year and from town to town.

The population in 1840 stood just under twenty thousand, about what it had been in 1800. Ten years later it was approaching twenty-three thousand, and in 1870 was nearly thirty thou-

sand. The ratio of Negroes to whites fell slowly during these thirty years, from about thirty-one per cent in 1840 to about twenty-four per cent in 1870; white immigration, which in the early nineteenth century had virtually stopped, began again; many of the new arrivals were Irish farmers or farmhands. There appears to have also been a small but growing influx of white residents born elsewhere in the United States, coupled with a decreasing rate of emigration among those born in the County. While many factors helped produce this regional revival, land-use and transportation changes were the major ones.

Throughout the Ridgely Collection it is not difficult to locate comments on farming methods which show that from the later eighteenth century good husbandmen in Kent County rotated crops and cut timber with thought for the future, and that not all farmers took those precautions. The letters of the mid-nineteenth century are in this respect similar to those of other generations of the Ridgely family. But they also show one radical change: The best farmers were treating their fields with guano, lime and ashes in addition to rotating crops. Charles I. duPont, Dr. Henry Ridgely and Eugene Ridgely all followed the practice, and each reported gratifying results. In a letter to a tenant, Mr. duPont insisted that the tops of all trees felled as timber must be salvaged for cordwood, since he needed six hundred cords yearly to bring in \$300.00 for grubbing freshly cleared fields and purchasing lime. He explained that, with careful fertilizing it was possible to nearly triple the average Kent County yields of grain, and pointed out that such an increase from but little additional labor would be very profitable to the tenant. That comment is significant, for there is much evidence that tenants resisted the newer methods.

At one time Charles I. duPont told his wife that "Fox Hall . . . will be the best farm & handsomest in the County & can be made itself to yield a support for us all if needed." Dr. Henry Ridgely announced that he was planting one hundred forty acres of corn, "and what I can brag of a little, every acre but ten will be manured." At other times he reported satisfaction with "Eden Hill's" yields. Eugene Ridgely, though occasionally discouraged at the slow pace, found that guano and lime were bringing back the vanished fertility of "Linden". The most conscientious farmers found grounds for discouragement as well as for gratification. In one year there was a general

failure of corn, wheat and vegetables so severe that "ruin seems to stare most of our farmers in the face". There were the age-old bouts with "drough and the fly", twin enemies of wheat; disappointing prices when harvests were good; and complaints about the cost and quality of labor. In 1849, "the best wages for the best hands" soared to \$12.00 per month and board. A man to supervise a farm drainage project demanded \$10.00 per month and board. Despite poor seasons and high operating costs, men like Charles I. duPont and the Ridgely brothers continued to experiment and to insist that the proven newer techniques be applied on their farms. One evidence that they were but a few among a substantial number of forward looking farmers lies in the organization of a State Agricultural Society in January, 1849. Dr. Henry Ridgely told his sister that he had helped with that but had taken no other part in the Agricultural Convention which preceded it.

Curiously, there is little evidence in the letters dated within Charles I. duPont's lifetime of the increasing importance of fruit-growing, especially peach culture, in Kent County agriculture. A shift in emphasis from grains to fruit as the principal market crop of the area was one of the effects of the Delaware Railroad, although a few growers near Dover had attempted large shipments of peaches while steamships offered the only transportation.

The Delaware Railroad, first chartered in 1836, had at that time failed to secure adequate backing. In 1849 its charter was revived; by 1852 its reorganization had been completed. Both Dr. Henry Ridgely and Charles I. duPont sat on its Board of Directors. The line was opened to Middletown in August, 1855; to Dover in January, 1856; and to Seaford, where it connected with ships for Chesapeake Bay ports, by the close of that year. Within a few years the road was continued to the Maryland border at Delmar, whence a connecting railway continued to Crisfield, Maryland. Within Delaware, the connecting Junction and Breakwater Railroad soon brought Milford, Georgetown and Lewes into the communications network. Economically, this gave Kent and Sussex Counties ready communication with Wilmington, Baltimore and Philadelphia. It opened to the outside world many areas which did not lie convenient to navigable streams. These factors, coupled with the line's comparative speed and smoothness, made fruit and truck farming profitable;

this, in turn, encouraged diversification of crops. Subsidiary industries, such as basket factories and food processing plants, soon followed although they did not become an important element of Kent County business within Charles I. duPont's lifetime. The railroad also brought Kent County far more convenient passenger service⁷ than its residents had known in the days of boats and stagecoaches. While the road was being built "Willy" Johnson wrote her sister that she would not attempt another trip to Wilmington until it was finished at least to Dover, for going by boat required being at the landing before daybreak, and the trip itself was not pleasant. Steamship connections for Dover, moreover, were quite evidently uncertain. Edward Ridgely, returning from a visit to the duPonts, on one occasion found no stage at Mahon's Landing when the boat docked; only a chance ride saved him from a seven-mile walk home. At another time he reached New Castle, southbound, to learn that only the "Smyrna boat" sailed that day, leaving Dover passengers the choice of waiting overnight or completing the last eighteen miles of their journey by stage, which on a rainy winter's day could prove both cold and wet. The difference in travelling conditions to central Delaware before and after the railroad came appears vividly from the experience of the Johnson family. "Willy's" letters constantly deplore the length of time between visits with her sister Ann, in one instance a matter of thirteen months, yet a few years later the Johnson children obviously made frequent visits to their relatives in Wilmington.

One interesting social development appears to have been an outgrowth of the greater convenience of railroad travel: Women, by 1855, might travel unaccompanied if circumstances required it. Indeed, Ann duPont, who, at the age of twenty-five had stated as a threat that she would make a fifty mile trip alone if her father or brothers did not soon arrange to escort her, in 1858, eighteen years later, put her eleven-year-old niece

⁷ The Public Archives Commission's broadside collection includes an announcement, of mutilated date, probably 1866, of a schedule between Wilmington, Delaware and Crisfield, Maryland. For the full route there was but one train each way daily; between Harrington, in lower Kent County, and Wilmington, there was an additional passenger train daily and a freight with a passenger car. Running time ranged from two hours thirty-five minutes for the faster passenger train to an estimated four and one-half hours for the freight. There were connections to Philadelphia and Baltimore shown on the passenger schedules.

Annie Johnson aboard "the cars" at Wilmington to go to Farmington by herself with no qualms save pity for the little girl's loneliness.

The letters of this period afford occasional glimpses of farm life in the wholly rural section of Kent County. Some of them are grim, for even women of prosperous families, with kindly husbands, faced hard work and loneliness. "Willy" Johnson once told her sister that to go to church every Sunday would be a cherished privilege; for the Johnsons the distance was so great they could rarely attend, and she herself passed days without "even anyone to converse with." In one season of ill health, when news of the deaths of several young wives had saddened her scattered neighborhood, she found its dreariness almost unbearable. Devastating heat, an aged mother-in-law's peevish complaints, and a plague of mosquitoes made her isolation even harder to bear. If farm life was sometimes difficult even for such wives as she, it is hard to imagine the plight of a woman she knew who, brought up to luxury, after marriage had found herself virtually imprisoned on a "barren sandhill" of a farm with a psychotic husband. There were hours of terror when a usually jolly child became fretful and listless, and in a few days was dead; for farm women the distance from help and from friends and family made such tragedy even more bitter. Even normal situations involved much hard work, such as patching and darning for a household that included the hired hands as well as the family, or an occasion when the housekeeper sampled the whiskey set out for the field hands so freely that young Mrs. Johnson and a single half-grown hired girl were left to prepare the dinner for thirty hungry men. "Pig-killings" were a busy, greasy time that farm wives were glad to see ended for the season. But by no means all farm life was dreary, or even exasperating. Most of the time "Willy" Johnson considered herself a fortunate woman, happy with her husband and children, content with most aspects of her world, and pleased with the new home Mr. Johnson built a few years after their marriage. There are allusions to a houseraising, a Christmas when there were twenty to share the festivities at "Coon Den", a gay New Year and other occasions memorable for the Johnson or their neighbors in lower Kent County. For the three Johnson children, Mispillion Hundred was a happy world, centering about their own congenial household, peopled with neighbors and school-

mates and shared with beloved pets. Letters describing life at "Coon Den" from their viewpoint, are, however, of a slightly later date.

"Eden Hill," in this generation as in earlier ones, afforded a blend of farm and village life. Its mistress could have contact with her family and friends almost as easily as a woman living actually in Dover. Virginia Ridgely's letters, indeed, are filled with news of her own kinsmen in Camden, and of Dover neighbors. Her schedule, none the less, was sometimes a strenuous one. She deplored that "Willy" Ridgely was to be a farm wife, forced to lay aside her dainty embroidery for mending or even making the farmhands' clothes and stockings, "cutting potatoes" (presumably for planting), and similar rough, laborious tasks whenever the farm was short of hands. At another time she wrote that she "rigged myself early for harvest work & stood at the table making pies and bread till 12 O'clock", and after a sketchy lunch had continued her baking until tea time. On the following day they had had thirty-eight harvestors, counting their own regular help; the next, she had cleaned house; then she had spent two days making jelly. Meanwhile, there had been callers, and many routine demands on her time. From the same letter it becomes evident that she was from day to day expecting the birth of a child. At a considerably later stage in her marriage she remarked on the difficulty of managing the household and paying off the hands when her husband was called away by business. There was, at some periods, much company at "Eden Hill;" family gossip once placed their number at fifteen or twenty almost every weekend during the summer in question. Between the extremes of drudgery and of extensive, often elaborate, entertainment, there was a very pleasant mean to life at the old Ridgely homestead, as "Aunt Jenny," Mrs. Henry Ridgely, told of it in the years during and just after the Civil War. It was a home where visiting children were doubly welcome, for the Ridgely's own only living child, Ruthanna, had started to boarding school in 1861. There Annie Johnson shared quiet evenings before the fire with her uncle and aunt, the three of them, "Aunt Jenny" said, as contented as her own cherished family of cats. There she enjoyed occasional visits from "the candy man" despite the cost and scarcity of sugar; there, too, she shared in the round of household tasks and in sociability with relatives or friends who called. Virginia Ridgely

told the little girl, too, of her sewing, sometimes for Ruthanna and sometimes for Annie; of her companionship with her cats, her dog and her horse; of long walks about the farm and its neighborhood, occasionally in "long gum boots" if the winter was a snowy one. The table at "Eden Hill" was clearly bounteous at all times; on a gala occasion, after the war, there is mention of a freezer kept filled with frozen custard and ice cream, and of a generous supply of chicken salad, calves' foot jelly, oysters, sausage and pound cake. Christmas was a festive time in Dr. Henry Ridgely's home, with much gift-giving. Its distinctive feature was a "table" arranged for each child of the household by "Old Chris."

These letters to Annie Johnson tell occasionally of Dover's social life in terms to interest a child. Mrs. Ridgely wrote of a fair with "a great crowd," much excitement, handsome farm produce on display, horseraces of which she disapproved through pity for the horses, and a wealth of candy, nuts, pies, fruit and lemonade on sale. At another time she reported that Mr. Cowgill had his "supply of Christmas toys" on display; invited her niece to "a show" which promised to be worth loss of a few days school; or told of a concert, a ball, or excellent skating. Daniel Ridgely, Eugene's son, wrote his cousin Nicholas Johnson in 1866 that there had been two balls in town that winter, "with plenty of girls, lots of dancing and any quantity of good things to eat." While there is much news through the years of Dover people, accounts of life there, as discussed between adults, are somewhat infrequent at this period. There are glimpses, usually through Edward Ridgely's eyes, of a sleepy village with little change from month to month, ruffled chiefly by "little bickerings and jealousies between the upper tens," and only moved to excitement by legislative sessions with their influx of strangers, their lobbying and maneuvering, and their conflicts of issues or personalities. In 1851 a "public supper" under auspices of a church was a long-talked of novelty, though Edward Ridgely, whose vision was defective at night, found the noise and movement too confusing for real enjoyment of the evening. Concerts at the churches, too, are occasionally referred to, one under Presbyterian sponsorship having been especially notable. It was in the middle years of the century that the Christ Church congregation, moribund since 1836, was revived. Edward Ridgely, in September 1850, had the weedgrown churchyard put in better

order, and seven years later had it "cleaned up" again, this time soliciting contributions from others to have a proper board fence erected. In the summer and fall of 1859 the Episcopalians again took a place, never since relinquished, among the functioning congregations of Dover. The vestry was reorganized, the church repaired and modernized, a rector chosen, and regular services resumed. The building was rededicated on Ascension Day, 1860.

As each previous generation of the Ridgely family has been introduced, some one city, usually Philadelphia but occasionally Washington or Baltimore, has loomed large in the affairs of its members over a considerable period. In Charles and Ann (Ridgely) duPont's time this was no longer the case. Much of the preserved correspondence passed only between Wilmington and some other Delaware town, while the remainder was of too diverse origin to particularly emphasize any one place. But if no single town or city outside the State was of outstanding importance in the family annals in these three decades, many entered the story in more casual context.

Philadelphia, with a population in 1850 of just over three hundred forty thousand and by 1860 numbering over half a million, was still the second largest city of the United States. To the Ridgelys and duPonts, it was a center where the men were frequently called on business and where the women found it convenient to shop for the more unusual articles of apparel and housefurnishings. Though their surviving letters contain only an occasional hint of its continued importance in education, the arts, and science, it was here that unmusical Dr. Henry Ridgely was delighted with one of Jenny Lind's concerts, and remarked that he understood "even Mr. duPont" was "crazy to hear" the famous soloist. It was from a boarding school in Philadelphia, too, that sixteen-year-old Amie duPont wrote wretchedly to her mother, pleading to be allowed to come home before the appointed time lest mumps and homesickness prove a fatal combination. The most extensive view of the city, however, was the one seen through Rev. Nicholas Ridgely's eyes during part of 1848. In the spring of that year he was sent to take charge of a church designed with more thought of his predecessor's ambition than of the financial resources of the Methodist congregation in the "entirely new" neighborhood building up around 12th and Ogden Streets. Though his letters and his wife's are more eloquent about the crushing adminis-

trative problems he had inherited and family matters unrelated to environment, they do suggest the lives led by working men and the poorer clerical and professional families. One glimpses the city's stifling streets during a July and August when residents were "almost suffocated" by the heat, and by dust in such clouds that freshly laundered clothes were taken from the line too soiled for use. Public transportation within the city, such as "the 10th Street omnibus" which ran past Nicholas Ridgely's door, was by this time taken for granted, but mail service was still primitive. The young clergyman was indignant that "Blood's Dispatch" was "forbidden to distribute letters in the Spring Garden District—a very inconvenient and unnecessary prohibition". The letters tell little, in direct narrative, about actual housekeeping in a home like Nicholas and Mary Ridgely's, but nothing perhaps can so emphasize the changes in housework in the last century as the matter-of-fact way in which both husband and wife accepted "a girl" as a simple necessity though their house and their family were small and they themselves were so poor that only a few months earlier Nicholas had been unable to go from Phoenixville to Dover for an important family discussion about the settlement of his father's estate. As always, one hears the familiar complaint that competent help was expensive if obtainable at all, though it appears a dollar and a quarter per week paid the wages of a very satisfactory servant before the year was out. In 1847, a pay of \$6.00 a week was quoted as the usual rate for nurses, who would "do no washing". Mr. Ridgely's statement a little later that his living expenses for 1848, exclusive of rent and clothing, totalled approximately \$350.00, places these figures in their proper perspective. The period when Philadelphia was an integral part of Ridgely life and correspondence, however, covered less than a single year of the thirty under consideration.

New York, by mid-century the largest city of the United States, its leading business center and most important junction of ocean, rail and river travel, was a familiar spot to Mr. duPont and his family. The business trips that his textile, railroad and other interests demanded often included a stop in that city. His daughter Mary also had some happy visits there at the home of friends and relatives, with parties, calls, and dances the order of the day. Waltzes, particularly their lengthy "introduction" when the gentleman stood for some minutes with

his arm about his partner's waist before the dance began, rather offended her sense of "Brandywine propriety" but for the most part the city offered a delightful change from the quiet life at home. On a later occasion Mary duPont was so critically ill in New York that her father and step-mother were summoned. Mr. duPont, coming home first, gave his wife explicit directions concerning her own travel and her baggage if she were forced to make the return trip without an escort, warning her sternly to have one of their friends in the city buy her ticket and dispatch the luggage, since the ticketoffice was "no place for a lady". It is interesting to note that as late as 1853 it was impossible to check baggage through from New York to Wilmington.

Washington was by no means an unknown city to the duPonts. It was, indeed, only a choice that prevented Charles I. duPont from going to the Capitol as United States Senator from Delaware, for the letters indicate that the appointment in 1847 would have been his had he felt free to accept it. Whig Party activities, efforts to defend his brother against criticism he believed unjustified, and on one occasion to secure an appointment for his son, required visits to Washington or resulted in letters from officials there. Two of Delaware's most prominent Senators of the entire period before the Civil War were John M. Clayton and James A. Bayard, Jr., both of whom were acquaintances and correspondents of Mr. duPont. With Clayton he was long on very intimate terms, although a break eventually occurred between them over the issues of religious tolerance and treatment of immigrants. The Washington of these letters is, none the less, little more than a political expression.

Many smaller cities, as well as these large ones, appear briefly in the family records. Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, with its rolling mill "nearly an acre" in extent, a huge one for the period, delighted Nicholas Ridgely when he first went to the town as pastor in 1846. So indeed did the general air of bustling industrial prosperity, which he contrasted with the sleepily peninsular towns he had known. But he also had the opportunity, before he left, to observe the weaknesses as well as the advantages of a machine-based society, for a nail factory fire left many skilled "nailers", some of them his parishioners, bereft of the means of support if they stayed in the community where all their interests lay. It was in Phoenixville that the young man

and his bride set up the first home of their own, the furnishings of which, even in modest style, he estimated would cost "at least two hundred dollars". References to many other towns were of only fleeting impressions: a day when impatient Charles I. duPont was stranded in Albany because no trains ran from there on Sunday; a pleasant visit to Harvard College where he had gone to enroll his son, and where he and the young man had every courtesy extended them despite the absence of "Frank's friend, Professor Longfellow", whom they had hoped to meet; Mary duPont's delightful stay near West Point which she and her host's daughters often visited and where she was amused at the suddenness with which the "ten o'clock bugle" summoned the cadets from their cotillion partners. Niagara Falls was becoming a popular site for tourists. Dr. Henry Ridgely and his wife brought home birchbark souvenirs from there in 1850, and when the duPonts visited it in September 1855, Mrs. duPont described it as a delightful village where she would even feel safe to go unescorted to get the mail, although "of course", with her husband present she had no real thought of doing such a thing. That trip was an extended one which took the couple to Louisville, Kentucky, by way of Mammoth Cave and Bowling Green. At the caverns there was already a pleasant and fashionable resort which counted among its visitors while the duPonts were there the Governor of the State and an English-woman planning a book of travels. There too, souvenirs were available; a vial of eyeless fish was the gift his parents chose to take home to little Harry duPont. Nor were crowded traveling conditions an unknown phenomenon a hundred years ago, for the duPont party was stranded at the Cave for an extra day and then compelled to take a roundabout route because the scheduled stagecoach reached their stop too full to take on passengers. Scranton, Pennsylvania, was a favorite mountain resort during the Civil War period. Mary duPont, who was there in the summer of 1862, wrote home of the pleasant social activities, though she was vaguely worried lest "papa" fret over "these dreadful battles" and the delay in "taking Richmond". Similarly, various other communities came into momentary prominence in the Ridgely-duPont story of these years.

Their increasing number and the relative ease with which journeys from one to another were usually accomplished underscore the familiar statement that distance, once steam trans-

portation and the telegraph came into general use, grew less important year by year.

The years from 1870 through 1900 witnessed many rapid changes unevenly distributed through the different parts of the country and various strata of society. There were substantial changes in the Ridgely and duPont family circles, both of which continued to be a very strong influence indeed in Ann (Ridgely) duPont's life, in her widowhood as in her marriage. Her immediate household, just after her husband's death, appears to have included only herself, her son Henry Ridgely duPont, then a few months past twenty, and her orphan niece Mollie Ridgely, who was nineteen. Soon, probably in 1869, they moved from "Louviers" to 1223 Market Street, Wilmington. Neither of the cousins married. Henry duPont, a lawyer in his adult years, remained a member of his mother's family until his own death in 1893, at the age of forty-six. He appears in this *Calendar* principally in letters written when he was travelling and through allusions in his mother's correspondence. There is clear indication in the letters that Mollie Ridgely lived in her aunt's home at least through 1890. Hers was the life of an unmarried gentlewoman, busy with the affairs of home, church, and social groups. Another household as close to Ann (Ridgely) duPont as her own, in point of affection, was her daughter Amie's family. At her father's death, Amie was the young wife of Eugene duPont, a cousin belonging to the E. I. duPont branch of the family, who then held a responsible post in the powder company and in time headed it. The eldest of their children, Anne Ridgely duPont, had been born in Charles I. duPont's lifetime; the second, Alexis, was born in 1869, a few months after his grandfather's death. Presumably within the same year, Eugene duPont's family moved into "Louviers", where they lived until 1881, when Ann (Ridgely) duPont remarked sadly that "the dear old house" stood empty. During their residence there three additional children, Eugene, Amy and Julia, were born. To their grandmother, these young people were a delight from babyhood until adult years, for she lived to see the youngest of them reach majority. Anne, with whom she had enjoyed an unusual intimacy, was, when Mrs. duPont died, the wife of William C. Peyton and the mother of a son, Bernard Peyton.

Charles I. duPont's children by his first marriage, Mary, Victor, and Charles I. duPont, Jr., continued to figure with some

prominence in the letters dated during his wife's widowhood. Victor, who married in 1851, had nine children: Victor, Mary Lammot, Ethel, Charles I., Alice, Samuel Francis, Greta, Sophie and Renée. At Ann duPont's death, eight grandchildren had been born to this elder of her stepsons. The younger stepson, Charles I. duPont, Jr., became a widower in the year of his father's death. At about the same time, his sister, Mary duPont, went to live with him. Charles himself died in 1873, only four years after his father. Charles had two children: Francis Victor Philip, who died an infant, and Victorine Antoinette, "Dear little Vickie." She died at the age of eleven. Her death, and that of her eight-year-old cousin Greta, one of Victor duPont's daughters, helped make the Centennial year "a black one" for the entire family. Victor duPont died in 1888, at sixty, in another year of sorrow for his stepmother. Sophie duPont, widow of Charles I. duPont's beloved brother "Frank", had succumbed suddenly to "neuralgia of the heart" in January, and in July Mrs. duPont's niece, Annie Johnson, also died. Of her sister-in-law, Ann duPont wrote: "To me it seems as if half the Brandywine is gone"; of Annie, that she loved her "next to my own children".

Among the Ridgelys there were fewer births, marriages or deaths of deep concern to Mrs. duPont, but there were nevertheless many changes of importance to her. With her eldest living brother, Dr. Henry Ridgely, and his wife, there is evidence as the years passed of increasing cordiality after a period of coolness. Early in Mrs. duPont's widowhood, Henry's only daughter, Ruthanna Ridgely, became the bride of Richard Harrington, and the mother of Ridgely, Maxwell and Virginia Harrington. Her husband's political interests took the couple frequently to Washington, though they were also often in Dover. After Mr. Harrington's early death, Ruthanna (Ridgely) married a Dover physician, Dr. James H. Wilson. She, her children, and each of her husbands appear from time to time in the letters of the last three decades of the century. Virginia (Jenkins) Ridgely died some two years before Ann (Ridgely) duPont, but Dr. Henry Ridgely outlived his sister by several years. Mollie Ridgely, daughter of Nicholas, has already been mentioned as a member of her aunt's household; her brother, Henry Ridgely, moved to California as a youth, and thereafter figured but little in family annals. Eugene Ridgely, at the time

of Charles I. duPont's death, had long been settled on "Linden" farm, near Dover, with his wife Mary Ann (Mifflin) and his only son Daniel, who was fifteen in 1869. Before Eugene's death in 1894, his family had retired from the farm, to the sorrow of his wife who had found the life there much to her taste. Williamina (Ridgely) Johnson, like Rev. Nicholas Ridgely, had been some years dead in 1869, but is represented in the family correspondence of that period by surviving children. The two younger of these, Nicholas and Annie Johnson, were themselves frequent correspondents from their schooldays well into adult years; they, as well as their older brother Henry Ridgely Johnson, their father Alexander Johnson, his second wife Elizabeth (Dorsey) and their half-sister Elizabeth Johnson were all topics of discussion among their relatives. Henry Johnson became a lawyer practicing in Dover, while his brother concerned himself with farm management and, at various times, with food processing ventures. Annie Johnson, a spirited and charming child and growing girl, suffered the first of a series of illnesses within a few years after her graduation from Wesleyan Female College in Wilmington. Thereafter she was rarely in good health. She died at thirty-one, in 1888. None of Williamina Johnson's children married. Edward Ridgely, youngest of Ann (Ridgely) duPont's brothers, practiced law in Dover throughout the years covered by this final group of letters. His family of four children was completed by the birth of Henry Ridgely a few days before Charles I. duPont's death. The elder of his daughters, Harriett, was then approaching her seventh birthday. Within her Aunt Ann duPont's lifetime she grew to womanhood, married Dr. Daniel Harrison, a Canadian-born psychiatrist, and herself became the mother of three children. Edward Ridgely, Jr., the elder son, died in 1884, a few days after his twentieth birthday. The second daughter, Sarah, remained unmarried. Henry came to adult years, studied law, married Mabel Lloyd Fisher, and became the father of one daughter before Mrs. duPont died. Ann (Ridgely) duPont's stepmother, Sally Ann (Comegys) Ridgely, lived until 1887 in the family homestead on the Green, never, it is apparent, on terms of intimacy with her stepchildren but nevertheless on a friendlier basis in this period than in their younger days. Her death occasioned a number of reminiscent letters discussing alterations needed to bring "the dear old house" into good repair. Since none of the Ridgely

heirs had immediate need for the homestead, it was rented for some years, until, at the expiration of the tenant's lease, Edward's son, Henry Ridgely and his family moved into it in 1895.

Ann duPont herself died in October, 1898, when she was nearly eighty-four years of age. Although occasionally, when she was ill or lonely, she had expressed a weariness that welcomed death, the vigorous mind and eager spirit that had made her long life both rich and enriching remained hers to the end of her days.

Nationally, the three final decades of the nineteenth century were ones of adjustment and expansion in many fields. In territory, the United States had reached its full continental limits before 1870; the island dependencies of Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Guam and the Philippines were acquired in 1898 and 1899, during and shortly after the closing months of Ann (Ridgely) duPont's life. The period saw the admission of eight States in the Mountain and Pacific West, leaving but three Territories, Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico. The population of the United States approximately doubled, rising from thirty-eight-and-a-half million in 1870 to almost seventy-six million in 1900. German and southern Irish immigration, an important population factor since the decade of 1840, continued into the years under discussion; in the period 1870-1900 there also began the first large-scale influx of eastern and southern Europeans, principally Slavs of varied nationality, and Italians. While Negroes increased steadily in numbers, their proportion in the total population fell, as it had done for several generations. Indeed, while in 1790 almost one resident of every five had been a Negro, in 1900 the proportion was but slightly more than one in ten, despite the fact that at the first Census there were little more than seven hundred thousand of them and at the twelfth they numbered almost nine million. Within the country the population was fluid, as it always had been, with a strong westward trend. By the final decade of the century, however, a counter flow of western-born citizens back to the seaboard States had become significant.

These changes in the number, distribution and make-up of the population accompanied great economic and industrial alterations in the country's business, partly as effect, partly as cause. The first transcontinental railroad, of which Charles I. duPont had long dreamed, became a fact in the year of his death. Five

other lines were complete before the turn of the century. Their existence opened the Rocky Mountain region and welded the Pacific coast into the national economy. Rich lodes of gold and silver, and even more important deposits of industrial metals and minerals, became accessible. These in turn led to expanding manufactures, with increasing funds of capital available for promising but risky enterprises. Improved transportation and farm machinery encouraged a concomitant expansion in agriculture. Despite a multiplied farm output, the shift of population from open country to villages, towns and cities gathered speed in the closing years of the century. In the cities, factories were increasing in size. The management of companies in similar lines of business was more and more being consolidated into firms of regional or nationwide scope, which in some instances became able to dominate the market in their product. It was an era when both profits and losses were spectacular. A lavish scale of living among the wealthy and the middle-income groups bore witness to the prosperous phase of the cycle; long and catastrophic business panics, during some years of this era, were equally characteristic of the downswing. At such time, poverty was often extreme, especially among industrial workmen, farmers with meagre capital, and the increasing number of farm tenants or laborers. Two new factors made living conditions in depression years more blighting in this generation than in earlier ones: The frontier, in the sense of suitable land for family-size farms free to homesteaders, became exhausted early in the period, while working-class neighborhoods of cities, crowded by immigration and the centralization of business, too often broke down into slums more extensive than any the country had known.

From this unstable economy of simultaneous promise and threat grew contradictory social and political trends. Corruption was common at every level of government, with city hall or courthouse "rings" accepted as normal in local affairs, and scandals involving high officials frequent in the Federal service. On the other hand, reform elements existed in both major parties. Joining with nonpartisan groups, they laid the foundations for the Federal civil service, improved election machinery in many areas, and prepared public opinion for other changes not actually accomplished until the administrations of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. Labor-management strife was bitter during these years. The political solutions offered for economic

problems, whether radical or conservative in approach, tended to be emotionally explosive. Sectional divisions remained intense. Such an era encouraged the callous, the ruthless and the grasping among the nation's people, and brought many of them to positions of power. But it also brought forward men and women of a very different kind; some of them gave a lifetime to teaching the ignorant, curing the sick, protecting the helpless, or changing specific business or social practices they believed were wrong; others sought for the causes of hardship or injustice, and through the cause, prevention. The Presidents of the United States whose administrations struggled with the problems of these years were Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur Cleveland, Harrison, Cleveland again, and McKinley.

Delaware, in the years 1870 to 1900 as in most of its history, presented a cross-section of national developments surprising for so small an area. Industrial expansion, increased agricultural output, seasons of prosperity and depression, politics marked by emotional issues and considerable corruption, were all characteristic of the period. While the principal railroad line was finished before 1870, there was nevertheless much activity in the building of spurs and connections, and in welding the whole into the larger systems. The Pennsylvania Railroad acquired by far the largest share, although the Baltimore and Ohio and the Reading also had some trackage in New Castle County before 1900. Delaware, although it had had but the barest remnant of slavery, was caught up in the emotional backwash of emancipation. Suffrage and personal status for Negroes were bitter issues between the parties and between the industrial and agricultural sections of the State throughout the period. Here as elsewhere, the social climate was predominantly conservative, with a leaven of protest nevertheless at work. Here, too, reformers won occasional victories, such as extending to married women the right to control their own property, but in general their role was one of preparing public opinion for changes that came later. Representative though Delaware was of the major aspects of American life, in one respect it was completely atypical. For the United States as a whole, "the frontier", remained a basic economic and political factor until the decade of 1880. In Delaware, on the other hand, public land in tracts of usable size had been exhausted for five generations, each of which had seen the State's territory occupied to the full limit possible under

the farming and business methods of its day. Any significant change in Delaware's population therefore indicated economic conditions affecting the area's ability to hold its native born and attract newcomers. Between 1870 and 1890 the State's residents increased from 125,015 to 184,735. In the State as in the Nation, the proportion of Negroes was falling; in 1790, they had supplied twenty-seven of each hundred residents, while in 1900 they numbered but nineteen in each hundred. The foreign born increased from just over 9,000 in 1870 to nearly 14,000 in 1900, with the greatest increase from 1880 to 1890. Their proportion of the total white population was roughly one in ten, slightly less than in New England and the other Middle Atlantic States, but far above that of the Southern States. As was true elsewhere, these decades marked the first important influx of southern and eastern Europeans into Delaware. In a further respect, this State's growth was similar to the national pattern. Increase in towns and cities was far more rapid than in farming sections. By 1900, some forty-one percent of the State's residents were in Wilmington itself, while considerably over half of all Delawareans lived in upper New Castle County. New Castle County as a whole numbered 109,697 inhabitants, Sussex County, 42,276, and Kent County, but 32,762.

Wilmington, in the period covered by the letters of Ann duPont's widowhood, was the most important single community represented in the correspondence. A census taken in 1869 by order of City Council shows a population of 31,397. The Federal census of 1900 lists 76,508 inhabitants in the city, more than double the count of thirty years earlier. In 1890, the number had been 61,431. For the latter year, the *City Directory* offers an interesting basis of comparison. In 1890 there were sixty-seven churches of ten denominations; twenty-five public schools, including a high school and several grammar schools; seven libraries, of which the Wilmington Institute was by far the most important, eighty-one physicians were practicing, and two hospitals were newly in service. Within the three decades the city had changed much. A *History Of Wilmington* compiled by the newspaper *Every Evening* in 1894 proudly reported that in the preceding "twelve or fifteen years" the streets, formerly cobbled if surfaced at all, had been "finely paved", electric street lighting introduced, convenient markets developed, a modern sewage system and a much improved public health service in-

stalled, and electric-motored trolleys placed in service. It claimed for "the newer Wilmington" a better water supply; a fine park system; a free library; good telephone and telegraph service; a rising interest in literature, art, music, drama, and out-door recreation; a wakening social conscience, indicated by such organizations as the Associated Charities; good schools, both public and private; and political advance signalled by adoption of the Australian ballot. There had been much recent home-building in the Clayton and Broom Street sections, and attractive homes, some of them pretentious, appear in photographs of other streets.

Stores were concentrated in the lower six blocks of Market Street, but were spreading northward. The city's always diversified industries grew both in size and number. Among the more important were ship and railway car construction, chemicals, textiles, morocco and leather processing, metalworking of varied types, and flour milling. The Federal census of 1890 reported 590 manufacturing establishments in Wilmington, employing 14,377 persons, of whom 1,170 were "females above fifteen years" and 583 were children. Wages aggregated \$7,664,148, while the total value of manufactured products was \$24,568,125. Wilmington also had a busy port, a substantial railborne commerce and a brisk retail trade supported by its own residents and visiting shoppers from the towns and farms for some miles about.

Among Wilmington's notable institutions in the post-Civil War years was Wesleyan Female College which, during Annie Johnson's student days there from 1872 to 1875, was frequently mentioned in the duPont-Ridgely-Johnson correspondence. It had begun in 1837 as a young ladies' boarding school under the direction of Rev. Solomon Prettyman. For some years it flourished, but by 1850 had met with reverses. In 1851 it came under the direct sponsorship of the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in 1855 received the right to grant degrees. Another period of prosperity followed the change in control and status, but ended abruptly in or about 1876. By 1885 the school had failed, for reasons not evident from published accounts of its history. The letters Annie Johnson wrote from there as a student, at the close of its golden period, show a school where the discipline was severe but where the young ladies, none the less, enjoyed a jolly life. Unauthorized correspondence with the students of a men's college could well lead to expulsion; nevertheless a group of Annie's classmates,

emphasizing that they were from "the first families" and were undertaking it solely as a prank, made overtures for an exchange of letters through her to her brother Nicholas Johnson's classmates at Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland. Her injunction to "burn this letter" lest it inadvertently travel home with the laundry and worry a family who might "think harm of what we thought was only fun" was not heeded. Despite their severity in the matter of letters, the Wesleyan faculty must have been in many ways an understanding one. They were tactful in dismissing gentlemen callers who once overstayed visiting hours; they permitted a group of older students the luxury of an unchaperoned sleighride through Wilmington; and on another occasion openly joined a hoax: the plan, which worked out to the delight of all the Wesleyans, was for the teachers to gravely receive and entertain all young gentlemen guileless enough to accept a formal invitation for the evening of April first. Good fellowship among the girls and exceptional fare featuring such foods as oysters, mince pies and chicken, added to the attractions of "the Wesleyan". Nor did the school, apparently, neglect scholarship. While Annie Johnson wrote at far more length of the social amenities and of dormitory life, she and her friends accepted hard study as the underlying fact of college life. Her class was, indeed, such an exceptional one that the faculty considered giving no valedictory and salutatory honors, on the ground that it was impossible to fairly choose but two among an outstanding group of virtually equal distinction.

The Wilmington of the Ridgely-duPont correspondence of the years 1870-1900, while occasionally concerned with the growing mercantile and manufacturing city, was most frequently a neighborhood of congenial acquaintances. It was often gay with teas, parties and dances. Sometimes amateur or professional theatre or music offered a diversion, and now and then a novelty appeared, such as "Barnum's show" which attracted much attention in 1882. Sometimes the town was decorous with the solemnity of Lent, and sometimes, from the young peoples' viewpoint, simply dull for no reason at all. Entertainment was often lavish and very formal, here as elsewhere. Mrs. duPont described several very elaborate weddings in or near Wilmington: at one, the whole house was overflowing with blossoms, and the room where the ceremony took place decked with "rare flowers"; at another, some fifty sleighs were sent to the station at New Castle to meet

a train chartered to bring the guests. Usually it was wise to dine very lightly before going out to tea, though it was possible to meet with dainty sandwiches, little cakes, and tea or coffee, as once happened to Mrs. duPont at the Bishopstead when she had taken the customary precautions in anticipation of a substantial repast.

Of Ann (Ridgely) duPont's own home at 1223 Market Street, as of "Louviers" when she was its mistress, there are but few descriptions. Its site was on the west side of the street, on a height of land just beginning to slope toward the Brandywine a few hundred yards away. In the late nineteenth century her neighbors were, for the most part, business or professional families of comfortable means. For some years Mrs. duPont's next-door neighbor was Watson R. Sperry, then editor of the *Morning News* and later United States Minister to Persia. For the interior of her own home we have for guidance only chance remarks, principally brief allusions to various rooms when re-decorating or other work on the house was being done from time to time. On one such occasion a small, handsome chair and a tall mantle glass were bought for the library, and some furnishings for "the front spare bedroom". At this time the family considered "our little room" the most attractive in the house. When the furnace was installed in 1876, it made the entire house comfortable in bitter weather, even the hard-to-heat parlor, entries, and Mollie Ridgely's room. The dining room was one a guest long remembered for its charm. There is one mention, in later years, of a conservatory, and another of a fernery, the latter in context which fails to indicate whether a feature of the garden or of the conservatory was meant. When one adds to these rooms bedrooms for the family, service areas, and probably quarters for servants who might live in, it is evident that the house was large. A relative, who visited it only in the closing years of Mrs. duPont's life, recalls it as a dignified dwelling with a few fine antiques among its furnishings. It is nevertheless far easier to recreate the feeling of 1223 Market Street as a home than to picture it distinctly as a house.

In it guests, both family and friends, were warmly welcomed. The library was clearly for use. Both mother and son had antiquarian interests, especially in the later years of their lives. It was a household where pets were part of the family, the cats "Jap" and "Mitza" being special favorites. It was, too, a

place that knew "all the horrors of dressmaking", the bustle of preparing for lengthy vacation journeys, casual overnight visits from passing nephews and nieces, welcome calls from the grandchildren, and the disruptions that illnesses bring in their train. A travelling son thought of home with corn, eggplant, ochre, lima beans, and he could even bear the thought of "fried tomatoes constantly for breakfast," when European fare, interesting enough in itself, lost its novelty. Here "pretty embroidery", ornaments of thistle flowers, handworked chaircovers, an embroidered panel for a sofa to be covered in olive plush, tidies, mats and curios were valued gifts. The mistress gave both time and thought to helping relatives and even strangers who were working on genealogical or historical problems, and was fascinated by the accumulation of family correspondence that came into her hands after her stepmother's death. It is impossible to cite a single passage that fairly represents the many-sided life of Mrs. duPont's Wilmington home. One that shows many facets of it is a description of the family dinner given there on her birthday, February 21, probably in 1886, when she was seventy-one. Her son, daughter and son-in-law were there, and the five grandchildren, "Lexie", the eldest boy, by grace of her special plea to the master of his school; so, too, was Mollie Ridgely and one guest not a close relative, Pierre Lamotte duPont. Mary duPont had been detained by family illness, and Annie Johnson, apparently, by unexpected visitors at "Coon Den". To Annie she wrote, half facetiously:

"As I had not had a visit from the Stetsons this fall I feared I would become rusty in giving stylish dinners, so I determined to practice on this. Now for the bill of fare. First, raw oysters seasoned with pepper and salt, and put in those little fishshaped china forms. Everyone enjoyed them. Then soup, which was delicious, a very large rock fish, boiled, with egg sauce was the third course . . . After fish we had turkey and five different kinds of vegetables, . . ., wine-champagne & sherry—, then cold ham & dressed celery—then ice cream Charlotte Russe, then fruits and nuts. Only seven courses."

Among her gifts were five cut glass dishes, "a large mahogany old fashioned Colonial chair", a family picture in a brass frame made by one of the grandchildren, a handsome china plate "so nice for ice cream", a large box of sugar plums, handsome desert plates, a silver cream pitcher, an ornamental brass book

rack, a satin tidy, "covered with crepe-lise", embroidered and trimmed with "the most beautiful shaded lace to match", a very handsome "cloth cape trimmed with lace, to throw around your shoulders if you are chilly", cut flowers and house plants, "a little book illustrated with hand painting", and "a beautiful figured lamp shade".

Kent County, in the closing decades of the nineteenth century, held as warm a place in Mrs. duPont's affections as it had done in the years of her marriage. Her brothers Henry, Eugene and Edward Ridgely, with their families were in or near Dover, the Johnsons were at "Coon Den" near Farmington, while she and her children owned "Fox Hall" and "Barren Plains", in the management of which she shared actively. When the homestead on Dover Green reverted to Henry M. Ridgely's heirs she helped in planning its renovation. She was therefore frequently in Dover and received a substantial number of letters from there and from Farmington.

The County, which had grown rapidly in the period 1840 through 1870 in response to improved transportation and agricultural methods, had reached a plateau by the later date and thereafter grew but slowly. From 1890 to 1900, indeed, the gain was but 100 persons, for a total of 32,762 residents at the turn of the century. This represented a growth of approximately 10,000 since 1850. The three final decades covered the years of the dominance and decline of fruit, primarily peaches, in the region's agricultural economy. The market for peaches, the size of the crop and the condition of the trees were consequently frequent topics of discussion in letters passing between the duPonts and their down-State relatives. Life on farms and in villages, as reflected in letters written from "Coon Den", apparently changed little from the preceding period. For children, it was a happy world of school, farm and family, with nutting, apple harvest, pig-killing, sometimes a "pound party", a concert or other entertainment at the Sunday school, a festival or a fair in Wilmington, as its highlights. Births, deaths and marriages of the neighborhood, the arrival, health or loss of pets, nice shirting bought from the local store or a fine piece of silk for an expensive dress from Philadelphia were all matters of moment. But as the young Johnsons grew into and beyond their teens, news of the neighborhood is more and more prefaced with the adjective "dull"; trips "up the road" to Dover, Wilmington,

Philadelphia or elsewhere become of increasing interest. For the Johnsons, and probably for most others of the more prosperous farm families, there were many such trips. Indeed, the growing ease and economy of travel within this period appears to be the one major difference between rural Delaware life in this generation and the several immediately preceding it. To farm families of limited means this "one major difference" was no doubt crucial indeed, bringing at least short trips within the purse of nearly all, expanding their markets, and possibly widening the variety of goods available at the village store.

Dover, like Kent County, grew rapidly in the third quarter of the century, then levelled off, though not so soon or so completely as the county. By 1890 its population had reached three thousand, to which another three hundred was added before 1900. Its rate of growth far outstripped the rural area about it, for in one lifetime it had grown to that size from a village of about five hundred. New and spacious homes in the later Victorian taste; modernization of older houses on the Green; the erection of a hotel, the Richardson House, where "they are trying all the-new things-it is lovely"; expansion of business and of the town's area, all marked these years. As always, the biennial meetings of the General Assembly, with their influx of strangers and the excitement of legislative battles were a central theme of Dover life, but in this final group of Ridgely Family correspondence they appear as only an occasion echo. The professional men, particularly lawyers, continued to be prominent, and business affairs, in which Dr. Henry Ridgely was frequently concerned as President of the Farmers Bank, were of growing importance. Henry and Edward Ridgely each acquired homes on State Street; in the older brother's household, his young grandchildren were frequent, welcome visitors, while in the same period Edward's children were growing from infancy to adult estate. The last-born grandchild of Henry M. Ridgely had, before the close of the century, moved into his grandfather's house on the Green.

Before the Ridgely House came into the possession of Edward's son Henry, however, it was to miss destruction very narrowly indeed at two different times. The first escape was the more dramatic. Nicholas Johnson told of it in a letter to his sister dated February 6, 1881, describing a spectacular fire in the hotel which adjoined the house:

“Dover, sure enough, came near to being my last resting place. Just as the town clock struck two I was wide awake and turned over to go to sleep when I heard the cry of fire upon our hall in the third story. I immediately jumped up, put on my clothes and run to call Will Smithers who was sound asleep and the fire within thirty feet of him, and then I helped him to save his clothes but he was so excited he left his watch and chain . . . and never thought of it until the roof had fallen in. . . . The room in which the fire broke out was immediately adjoining the one assigned to me but mine had no grate and I wouldn’t sleep in it as I prefer sleeping by fire and so gave it up to Harry Turner of Wilmington. You never saw such a time, every room was full of guests and here they came yelling, carpet bag in hand, some half dressed, some in their nightclothes with hat and boots on. . . . Mrs. Ridgely had all her property moved out on the Green as everyone was sure the house would go and the only thing that saved it was the roof being covered with snow. Notwithstanding this it was constantly catching on fire, the Green was just as light as day & the scene was awfully grand.”

The second threat came with the death of Sally Ann (Comegys) Ridgely in 1887. Her stepchildren considered that the property had been returned to them in such condition that they wondered for a time if it was worth renovating; there was, indeed, a serious suggestion that it might be wiser to raze the old dwelling. Fortunately, further study showed the walls and foundations were unusually sturdy and the brickwork exceptional, whereupon the necessary repairs were undertaken. Since the intention at the time was simply to make the property rentable and to prevent further deterioration, work on it was kept to a minimum. The house consequently bridged the generation in which it was much out of style and in which most buildings of comparable age on the Green were greatly altered to suit the current taste, with little more than the introduction of plumbing, rearrangement of certain doors and stairways, some secondary interior changes, and coats of paint which much hard labor later removed.

In each earlier period represented in this *Calendar* at least one community beyond the limits of Delaware has been an essential part of the background of the family correspondence. Often there have been several such communities. But in the last years of the nineteenth century no single town or city at a distance stands out in the narrative. Philadelphia, New York,

Baltimore and Washington held no special role in family affairs as the letters recount them, although each is mentioned in the context of visits, shopping trips or news of relatives or associates. There are many references to resorts and to travel for business, health or pleasure. Henry R. duPont wrote from Lake George and its vicinity, from Mt. Desert with which he was completely in love, and from Saratoga Springs which he found far too "fashionable" to be interesting, and from Canada. Annie Johnson spent a winter, represented by several extant letters, in Thomasville, Georgia; vacation spots in the Adirondacks, the Catskills, the Poconos, the nearby Pennsylvania hill country and at the seashore also frequently appear in the datelines of letters or form topics of discussion. Dr. Henry Ridgely and his wife went to Florida; and Anne and Alexis duPont wrote or received letters at their respective schools in Farmington, Connecticut and Shoemakertown, Pennsylvania. Henry duPont spent two summers in Europe and his mother made one trip to England and the Continent. Mrs. duPont also corresponded, in the closing years of her life, with her former neighbor, Watson R. Sperry, while he was living in Germany. Many of the letters are informative or amusing but none of them form long series or for other reasons make their specific point of origin a central fact in the story the correspondence tells. Their significance lies rather in the fact of easy, taken-for-granted travel to any spot in America or Europe one might have reason to visit.

The correspondence of Charles I. and Ann (Ridgely) duPont, Reverend Nicholas Ridgely and Annie and Nicholas Johnson has much to tell of American life and thought in the years 1841 through 1898, a period covering almost a third of the history of our Republic. It is hoped that this final section of the Ridgely Collection will supply helpful information on some aspects of American life during this period.

CHAPTER I

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY

1820

1949

Nicholas Ridgely, tenth child of Henry M. and Sarah (Banning) Ridgely, was born December 18, 1820. He was a namesake both of his uncle, Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely, and his great-grandfather, the first Delaware resident of the Ridgely family. The relatively few family letters dating from his boyhood tell that he was a somewhat serious child, fond both of books and of sports, that his father encouraged his memorizing and reciting "speeches" when he was but seven years old, that his later studies included Latin, French and surveying, and that he hoped to practice law. In his later teens he was an eager member of the Dover Lyceum. Like many of his relatives, he was fond of verse and occasionally attempted it himself, with results others considered praiseworthy. In the spring of 1838, when Henry M. Ridgely was Register of Wills for Kent County, seventeen-year-old Nicholas was serving as his clerk or deputy. He was invited to remain in that capacity by his father's successor. Of his formal schooling and the principal incidents of his childhood, the family records are silent.

From the closing months of his nineteenth year, in contrast, his is one of the more closely documented lives in the family album. In the fall of 1839 he became a Methodist convert. From that time onward religion was his ruling interest. With Daniel M. Bates, a contemporary and close friend who afterwards became a Chancellor of the State, Nicholas Ridgely assumed the principal responsibility for newly-organized Sunday schools in Dover and at several points in the countryside. Almost immediately he began to consider the ministry as a career, but on this point he made no final decision until 1841. Meanwhile, he continued studies that would be useful either in the law or the church. In the winter of 1840-41 he taught the Dover district school for several months, and apparently again took it for a very short time in 1841-42. During the intervening summer he was licensed as a "local Preacher" to assist in the Caroline County Circuit in nearby Maryland, where an itinerant's death had left a sudden vacancy. Early in 1842 he joined the Philadelphia Conference as an itinerant regularly stationed on the Caro-

line County Circuit, where he remained for two years. There he prayerfully reexamined his decision and decided that he had chosen aright; explored and rejected the feasibility of enrolling in a ministerial candidates' class at Dickinson College; and met his future bride, Miss Mary Tilden, at Greensborough, Maryland, the principal village of his arduous circuit. It was apparently early in his ministry that he became certain that he had inherited his mother's visual defect in a more severe form than any of her other children, and must base all his plans upon the probability that he would be blind at an early age. In 1844 the Conference transferred him to New Castle, Delaware, and the following year, to Haddington, Pennsylvania. On December 18, 1845, while he was stationed at Haddington, he married Mary Tilden. The fact that his meagre salary had made his engagement much longer than he wished brought only the admission that "it is sometimes inconvenient to be poor." His bride shared his religious fervor and accepted the restrictions of a clergyman's life willingly. She was a physician's daughter, well-educated and gently nurtured. In these respects she was an ideal mate for Nicholas, who loved her devotedly to the end of his days. She was also, unfortunately, of frail physique and of somewhat unstable emotional make-up, with a tendency to extravagance despite her best intentions toward economy. She had, moreover, a brother and sister whose erratic natures were to bring further complications into her husband's difficult life.

The young couple established their first real home at Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, where Nicholas Ridgely was sent the spring after their marriage. It was a community he soon came to love and in which he made lasting friendships. There the elder of his children, a son named Henry Moore Ridgely in honor of his father, was born November 13, 1846. Here, too, he received word of his father's death the following August, and from here he supplied technical advice about the settlement of the estate and assumed the role of peacemaker in the occasional family frictions that developed.

His correspondence shows that he had many devoted friends among parishioners and clerical brethren. His growing professional stature appears from the action of the Convention in the spring of 1848, when he was appointed to the Twelfth Street Church, in the Spring Garden section of Philadelphia. The neighborhood was a new one, and the congregation large. It was not

quite large enough, however, to support the over-ambitious building erected by a predecessor. Nicholas Ridgely therefore found an almost impossible task of fund-raising added to his normal parish duties and the program of study, including a mastery of Greek, which he had set himself despite his rapidly failing vision. The summer proved sultry and dusty; nagging personal problems multiplied; both his sense of responsibility and his love for the teaching and preaching phases of his ministry forced him to a driving pace. When fall came he was exhausted. Revival services with "protracted meetings" added to his "incessant labor and fatigue". A heavy cold in late November led to pneumonia, from which he recovered so slowly that he withdrew from preaching, first for the winter months only and then for the ensuing Conference year. When he had somewhat improved he accepted appointment as a teller in the Farmers Bank at Wilmington, and settled his family in a small house on Shipley Street. There his second child, Mary Tilden Ridgely, was born in August, 1848. Late in the summer he was again taken ill, with unmistakable symptoms of tuberculosis. Through the fall he failed rapidly; by November, his condition was critical. On December 1, 1849, he died at his home in Wilmington, a few days less than twenty-nine years of age. He was buried in Christ Churchyard, from the family homestead on Dover Green, as he had wished.

Mary (Tilden) Ridgely, his widow, survived him a little over eight years. On April 23, 1858 she, too, succumbed to tuberculosis. Her grave is near her husband's in Christ Churchyard, Dover. After their mother's death the two children, Henry M. Ridgely and Mary Tilden Ridgely, divided their time between the homes of Dr. Henry Ridgely in Dover and Mrs. Charles I. duPont near Wilmington. At an early age, the son moved to California, where he spent the remaining years of his life. His sister, known to the family as Mollie, continued to live with the duPonts far into adult life, remaining a resident of Wilmington until her death. Rev. Nicholas Ridgely's children both died unmarried.

Nicholas Ridgely's immediate family have all been introduced elsewhere in this *Calendar*. His wife's brother, William P. Tilden, a physician and Methodist zealot, appears with some prominence in the present chapter. Her brother Thomas Tilden,

sister Sarah Tilden, and sister-in-law Mrs. M. P. Tilden, apparently the widow of a deceased brother Charles, are also represented.

In accordance with the basic arrangement of this *Calendar*, Nicholas Ridgely's correspondence with his parents has been abstracted in the section devoted to theirs, while the letters between him and all others during his minority form a part of the grouping "Children of Henry M. Ridgely." These sections comprise Chapters II and III of Volume II in this series. The correspondence in the present chapter is that of Nicholas Ridgely from his twenty-first birthday. It numbers three hundred fifteen items, only two of which, both to his sister Williamina (Ridgely) Johnson, are letters he wrote. There are, however, seventy-three letters from him to his sister Ann (Ridgely) duPont abstracted with her correspondence in this volume.

Nicholas Ridgely's correspondents may be classed in three groups. The largest of these is made up of his own and his wife's relatives. It includes letters from each of his brothers and sisters living in 1841; his sister-in-law Elizabeth Ridgely after she became the widow of his brother Charles George; his father's wife and widow, Sally Ann (Comegys) Ridgely; his aunt, Mary (Ridgely) Morris who was his father's sister; his cousins Elizabeth and Mary Banning, daughters of his mother's brother, John Banning; his mother's cousin Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Lowber; William, Thomas and Sarah Tilden, his wife's brothers and sister; and William Delahay, apparently a family connection of Mary (Tilden) Ridgely. Another group, also substantial in number, is composed of the letters of intimate friends. Three of these, Benjamin B. Comegys, Daniel M. Bates and "Pem" Manlove, he had known from boyhood. Four, A. W. Milby, James Nichols, A. Manship and David Shields, were fellow clergymen. Three women correspondents were: Mrs. Mary (Black) Couper, a family friend of long standing; Mrs. S. Challenger, of New Castle, apparently Nicholas' landlady when he was stationed in that town, was one to whom he, and later his widow, turned for advice and for help in times of tension or illness; and Mrs. Eliza Woodall was a fellow church member in Dover. Nicholas Ridgely's correspondents also include thirty-two individuals with whom his association may have been more casual. Several of these were clergymen or lay persons who wrote on church business. Some were members of his congrega-

tions, while still others were concerned in some phase of the settlement of his father's estate, particularly with the handling of certain real and personal property in which Nicholas had an interest.

Rev. Nicholas Ridgely's personal papers in the custody of the Public Archives Commission but not abstracted in this *Calendar* number approximately one hundred documents, of which twenty-seven are notebooks. Among these are a collection of verse, mostly transcribed but some possibly original, dating from about 1836; a collection of seven songs, the words and music copied by hand; six sets of notes and abstracts from textbooks he had found useful; six draughts and notes for speeches before the Dover Lyceum in 1839; portions of the young clergyman's journal for the years 1846 and 1847; eleven sermons and religious addresses; one incomplete printed copy of an elementary Sunday school text; and a longhand copy of an obituary sermon preached in his memory by Rev. Pennell Combs on December 2, 1849. The seventy-three loose documents in the group include personal and church business accounts, personal memoranda, notes for sermons or speeches, and similar data. No portrait of Rev. Nicholas Ridgely is known.

ABSTRACTS

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from BENJAMIN B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Dec. 25, 1841.

Explains why he judges himself unfit for the ministry and will build his religious life around lay Bible teaching. Like Nicholas he is worried over "near relatives who are destitute of Godliness". Alludes to Sunday School books, religious teaching, his mother's illness, the death of a "Mr. Jack", and the comfort Nicholas finds in his ministerial studies. Meditates upon the lost opportunities of the closing year.

A. L. S.

4 pp.

21cm. x 26cm.

NICHOLAS [RIDGELY, Dover], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Georgetown, [Del.], Dec. 26, 1841.

Invites his brother to stay with him during the Temperance Convention. He and his wife have recently joined the Temperance Society. Wants Nicholas to meet Bishop [Alfred] Lee, whose zealous yet conciliatory work is making an excellent impression in the neighborhood, building up his own church rapidly, and attracting listeners of all denominations. Refers to

the dismissal of Mr. . . . Kingsbury from the [Episcopal] ministry, and to a Methodist service held at five in the morning. Mentions James Allen, and Mr. Finney. Will confer with a legislative committee in Dover soon.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., Jan. 14, 1842.

"I trust God will greatly bless your ministry". Asks about the reasons for his choice. Fears that as a Methodist his "refinement of feeling" may suffer. Discusses his relations with his father, the religious attitudes of Ann (duPont) and her own husband, a convention of the American Board [of foreign missions], a rumor of [Dr.] Henry Ridgely's engagement to Miss . . . Frazier, and Judge [Samuel] Harrington's grief at his sister's "dying unprepared". Sarah and [William Young, and Mrs. James Black] now live in Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. A[NN] R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, Jan. 22, 1842.

Has some interest in religion but shrinks from the "public profession" of confirmation. Misses Dover, despite her "indulgent and dear" husband and the delightful society of Wilmington. Hopes to be buried in [Christ] churchyard. Fears Brother Charles' [George Ridgely] apparent reformation may be temporary, but will welcome a visit from him and their father. Felt rebuffed by the [John] Banning family. Mentions Aunt Mary [Hillyard], Miss Ann Davis, Will[iamina Ridgely] and Sophie duPont.

A. L. U. 4 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Feb. 1, 1842.

Discusses his renewed hopes for the ministry. Admires Rev. Mr. Todd. His own church may reorganize under Presbyterian control. Invites Nicholas to stop on his way to "the Jersey Conference". Inquires about Dan[iel] B[ates], and the Eccleston girls.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, March 1, 1842.

Has asked Rev. Mr. Todd's advice about entering the ministry in view of the way "my earlier years were spent" [in cas-

ual, sometimes frivolous, reading which he fears has destroyed his ability to concentrate on serious study], of his doubt and difficulties, and of the congregation's prospects.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS G. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOSEPH H. CATTS, St. Louis, Mo., March 8, 1842.

Tells his "Dearly Beloved Brother in the Lord" of his happiness since his conversion, of the religious revival sweeping the whole city, and of his reasons for joining the Baptist Church. St. Louis is suffering a severe depression. Mentions Eugene and [Henry M.] Ridgely, D[aniel] M. Bates, Mr. and Mrs. . . . Todd, and Miss Mary Skee. Temperance Societies are changing the city greatly.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 32cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Hillsborough, Caroline County, Md., from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., March 8, 1843 [1842].

Mentions Elizabeth [Groome] and her second son, John [Groome], "Garretson", her husband's family, Mr. [William] Young, his infant son and wife Sarah, with whom "Ma" [Mrs. James Black] plans to stay while he is at sea, her aunts and her husband's young sister Lizzie [Couper]. Asks Nicholas' prayers for her husband who is attending a Bible Class and for whose conversion she is eager. Discusses their church in New Castle, prayer meetings, and a general spirit of revival felt throughout the country in "all denominations except High Church and Romanists".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from A. W. MILBY, Lewistown, [Lewes], Del., March 23, 1842.

If both are accepted by Conference, hopes they may have adjoining circuits. Welcomes the hardships he may face as a clergyman and hopes for deeper religious experience. The "powerful religious influence" evident throughout the country is felt in Sussex County. Discusses a temperance meeting.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, c/o C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, April 4, 1842.

Urges Nicholas to stay with him while in Philadelphia. Has not decided about the ministry. For a fortnight evening religious services and unusual duties at the store have tied him.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, c/o C[HARLES] I. duPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, [Dover], April 6, 1842.

Asks his brother to choose "seven pieces of paper for our back room & ten yards of bordering to correspond". Wishes a small figure, "not too light a color", of a pretty pattern and good quality. Will meet Nicholas and Will[iamina Ridgely] at the steamboat landing. Says his sister had "better be attending to the sale of her pea-sticks" or the season will be past. "There was a great temperance meeting today in town."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 25.3cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, May 2, 1842.

Has assumed Nicholas' place as family scribe, "for you . . . know how Father and Gene [Henry M. and Eugene Ridgely] dislike writing". Is glad he finds the Maryland people hospitable. Fears rain will spoil a "May party" for which "the girls" have gotten decorations from the Ridgely garden, now gay with tulips. Their father "has no one hardly to talk to since you went away". Mr. [M. D.] Kurtz is married. Dover was crowded last week during court sessions. [May 5] adds a postscript asking her brother to be sure to be at home for his father's wedding to S[ally] A[nn] Comegys on May 17. Alludes to "a square collar".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from DAN[IEL] M. BATES, Dover, May 3, 1842.

Is glad to learn he is settled and only a little homesick. Tries to dispel his doubts about his fitness for his calling. "Brother [M. D.] Kurtz" was married at five o'clock Wednesday morning and left at once for his circuit. Misses Nicholas even more since . . . Mulford and his sister left Dover. Likes Mr. and Mrs. [John] Woodal. Credits the rumor that [Henry M. Ridgely] will marry S[ally] A[nn] Comegys; a solitary life to one of his social disposition must be anything rather than agreeable. Speaks of Eli Lansberry's brother.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Caroline Circuit, Md., from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, [Del.], May 8, 1842.

Is delighted that her husband is now a communicant. Sends Nicholas the *Psalms* and a small *Bible*. Mentions Annie [Mrs. Charles I. duPont] and Elizabeth [Mrs. J. C. Groome].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from EUGENE RIDGELY, Dover, May 9, [c. 1842].

His books from Philadelphia have not arrived, but Sam[uel] Couper brought some from his brother Dr. [James] Couper, [Jr.]. Remarks flippantly that *Faber On Infidelity* might profitably be read in Dover. Hopes [Rev.] Mr. [J. D.] Long, who seems to be liked, may "do some good". His own life is not one that would lead to "serious reflections" though it includes nothing "immoral". "Willy" [Ridgely] has joined the Temperance Society; John Harper, Adam Green and Purnell Lofland were expelled. John W. Osborne will marry Miss . . . Thomas of Wilmington today. Complains of slow mail service. William Comegys has left for Indiana.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. C[OMEGYS], Philadelphia, May 9, 1842.

Like Nicholas, he was surprised to learn of the coming marriage between [Henry M. Ridgely and Sally Ann Comegys]. Regrets the difference in their ages and that Mr. Ridgely "cannot be called a religious man", but hopes the union will prove happy. Finds that ministerial training will require from seven to ten years and will cost \$100 yearly exclusive of clothing. Must decide during his visit home. Mentions Mr. Williston of Massachusetts and Rev. Mr. Todd.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from REV. ROBERT YOUNG, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., June 4, 1842.

If he had not already entered the itinerancy, would advise him to complete a college course, but thinks it likely he can pursue the most necessary studies while on his circuit. Should he decide to enter college now he will be received at Dickinson. Total expenses are about \$200-\$250 yearly for a frugal student. One year's study might be sufficient. There will be a "volunteer" class of ministerial candidates. Mentions Mr. [D. M.] Bates.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, [Md.], from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, June 6, 1842.

Chides him for his infrequent visits. Charles [G. Ridgely] and his wife, and Sister [Mrs. Charles I. duPont] are expected. Tells of a party with more than fifty guests; "they staid till half past twelve". Mentions [Charles] Marim, [D. M.] Bates, (Zachariah) Porter and [W. L.] Gray. The family, "Mammy" [Mar-

garet], and "all the colored people" send their love to him; finds him a favorite everywhere. Paid a forfeit of strawberries to Mr. . . . Culbreth "in a philapeona".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from D[ANIEL] M. BATES, Dover, June 16, 1842.

Is lonely. Sees little of [George P.] Fisher since his marriage. Enjoys talking law with Nathaniel Smithers but on other topics they differ widely. Advises Nicholas against any study which may hasten his blindness. Discourages scholarly pursuits he has so little hope of continuing, and begs him to face his problem "rationally as well as conscientiously", warning that many "follow all their lives mere notions as duties". Mentions Mr. [A. W.] Milby, and Brother [M. D.] Kurtz.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16.7cm. x 20.3cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from A. W. MILBY, Honey Brook, Chester County, [Penna.], June 20, 1842.

Cannot attain the purity of mind and heart he feels a minister must have, and is discouraged because so many of long standing do not even strive after it. Wants news of Nicholas' circuit, his state of mind and his studies. Finds Northerners difficult to approach. His circuit is not pleasant, for its largest town is inhabited almost wholly by "deists and universalists".

[Nicholas Ridgely adds a note mourning his own "depravity" and his bondage to "pride and unholy affections".]

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, June 20, 1842.

[Eu]gene [Ridgely] enjoyed his visit with Nicholas. Bishop and Mrs. [Alfred] Lee, "Mr. King [Rev. James Tyng] from Smyrna", and the Philadelphia clergyman Mr. . . . Harris and Mr. . . . Spear have all been in Dover recently. Mentions Father and "Ma" [Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Ridgely], "Mammy [Margaret]", "Aunty's" [Mary B. Ridgely] family and Sister (Mrs. Charles I. duPont]. Asks teasingly if he does not wish he were home to enjoy "smear case" with them.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, c/o BOCKHILL, SMITH & CO., Philadelphia, June 24, 1842.

Has abandoned his hopes of the ministry, and is content. Still intends to devote his life to the service of God. Ask about Mr. . . . Emory. Fears Nicholas' circuit is arduous. Tells of a

religious letter to Mary Bateman, recommending *The Path of Peace*; and of an evening with Lydia Cullen, whom he admires. Sends a useful "little book of Biblical Interpretation". May lead a prayer meeting among the poor, probably "among the blacks". Speaks of his sister [Mrs. H. M. Ridgely].

[Nicholas Ridgely adds an approving note. Is grateful for the friendships he has enjoyed].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.4cm. x 32cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from D[ANIEL] M. BATES, Dover, July 25, 1842.

Will leave soon for Saratoga [New York] to escape the fever and build up his health for a winter of hard study for admission to the bar. Doubts that Nicholas should attempt college or that it is his duty to remain in the ministry. "To settle . . . among your friends, and secure yourself as far as possible ag[ain]st the inconvenience and helplessness of blindness, as you might do upon a farm, seems not only justifiable but a duty itself."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 22cm. x 27.8cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Aug. 7, 1942.

Sympathizes with his friend's trials and difficulties in his new work. Admires his "submissive spirit" but hopes his concern about his sight proves groundless. Tells of religious meetings among the Negroes. Plans to take a group of his own in addition to his Sunday School work. Comments on Mr. . . . Emory's letter to Nicholas, on his problem of further study, and on his own temptations. Lydia W. Cullen is a charming young lady whom he hopes to see often. She waited in Philadelphia for two weeks "for company & protection home".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 23.6cm. x 28.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 29, [c. 1842].

There has been "a great revival" in Dover during which many of the girls and most of the boys, among them Bill Nicholson, Bob Graham, George Stevenson, Jim Manlove and Jim Denny, have been converted. Yesterday's Sunday School session lasted five hours. Begs Nicholas to take her [to Wilmington] for a promised visit to Sister [Mrs. Charles I. duPont] for [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] "puts off . . . from week to week and I am afraid I shall not get there at all". Tells of a camp meeting. William Morris has visited Dover. Chats of the coming marriage of Anna Maria Morris and W. Cooper, and of "Old Mr.

[David] Louis" and Mary Stevenson. [Eu]gene reminds his brother about a "white roundabout". "Our Dan" [servant] Rebecca . . . , and Sol Minner have "got religion".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from D[ANIEL] M. BATES, Dover, Aug. 29, 1842.

Returned from Saratoga [New York] sooner than he planned. Is pleased that several of their Sunday School pupils "profess to have obtained religion" and that others seem about to do so. Deplores "an effort among our friends to get up an undue excitement"; he thinks it interferes with real religious reflection, disgusts many thoughtful sympathizers and worries members who see its "hollowness". Hears gratifying reports of Nicholas' work. Comments on his plan to remain an itinerant. Speaks of Mrs. [John] Woodall and the Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 22cm. x 27.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from A. W. MILBY, Honeybrook, Penna., Sept. 2, 1842.

Tells of the difficulty of conducting camp meetings in his neighborhood. In Maryland "the people . . . are more christianized and methodised" so order is easier to keep. Complains of a group living in a community along the Schuylkill where everything, even husbands and wives, is held in common. Hopes to organize a Bible class. Faces many discouragements and temptations. Inquires about Nicholas' progress in Hebrew.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from S. A. [MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 12, 1842.

Apologizes for delay in writing. Speaks glowingly of her brother Benjamin [B. Comegys]. Refers to the recent revival among Sunday School attendants, with twenty members subsequently joining the church, and of plans for an additional "class" under the direction of Mr. . . . Smithers. [Henry M.] and Aunt [Mrs. Nicholas] Ridgely are both ill with colds. Mentions "Miss Maria", "Willie", Eugene and Edward Ridgely, and "Aunt [Mammy] Margaret" who "sends her love to Master Nicholas".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25.4cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from REV. JOSHUA HEMPHILL, Columbia, Penna., Sept. 19, 1842.

Thinks his uncertainty about his ability is a natural feeling for a young minister. Hopes he will not hastily abandon "the traveling ranks". Asks for the news of Greensborough, mentioning mutual friends there. Also speaks of Mr. and Mrs. [John]

Woodall and Cornelia [Woodall]. Tells of his own family and the work of his church. Finds it hard to promote Methodism "among this Dutch people". The county is beautiful and produces abundantly, but its people are "very wicked"; scarcely a quarter of them attend any religious services.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 19, [1842].

Their father objects to her visiting him while his neighborhood is sickly. Her trip [to Wilmington] is also postponed for [Dr.] "Henry [Ridgely] has been put on the ticket and can't go until after election". Comments that Father [H. M. Ridgely] will be well represented if all the family candidates win, with "a son [Charles George Ridgely] from Sussex, a son from Kent and a son-in-law [Charles I. duPont] from New Castle; now if they would run father for president wouldn't we be fixed?" Denny Wilds' baby, old Mr. Burkalow, "Swazey's mother", and Mrs. Joseph McDaniel, wife of the tavern keeper next door, have all died recently. Miss Eliza Melvin is married; "Old David Louis" is married to Mary Stevenson. Mentions Willard Saulsbury and Mary Frame.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. C[OMEGYS], Philadelphia, Sept. 23, 1842.

Longs for a visit home. If Nicholas accompanies him to Georgetown it will preclude embarrassing rumors. Writes of the pitfalls in the Christian's way in a large city. Refers to the recent conversions in Dover, mentioning especially that of "Sol Minner, the carpenter who used to be so worthless". Approves Nicholas' plans of preaching often to his converts.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 23.5cm. x 28.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Greensborough, Md.], from MARY BANNING, Philadelphia, Oct. . . ., 1842.

Resumes an interrupted correspondence. Enjoys teaching in the public schools though she is somesick. Refers to her sisters Elizabeth, Sally, and Alice [Banning], an aunt, and Mrs. . . . Davis. Hopes to see him when he comes to Conference.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from EUGENE RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 22, 18[42].

Has lost the key to a small box, a valued gift. Enjoyed a visit in hospitable Greensborough. Gives his brother some chestnuts "packed in earth for some time to prevent shrinking".

Alludes to Mr. . . . Voshell's tavern at Greensborough, Dr. . . . Rossett, Jim Clayton, and "Clate" Cowgill's school near Middletown, [Delaware]. Apologizes for prepaying the postage.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 21cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from DAN[IEL] M. BATES, Dover, Oct. 28, 1842.

Is puzzled at the report W[illard] Saulsbury will succeed [Zachariah] Porter at "the [Dover public] school" for the former has completed his law studies and has good prospects. The present campaign repeats "the famous contest of '40. Yesterday we had . . . a grand Whig mass meeting, with a brass band, a boat on wheels, live coon, J[ohn] M. C[layton] and all". Regrets "this vogue for addressing the electorate in a manner founded on the presumption of their stupidity and ignorance". Has been greatly tempted to join in the debate but his youth and lack of familiarity with all the issues have held him back. Hopes "the Doctor" [Henry Ridgely] is elected. Wishes Nicholas would arrange to exchange pulpits with Mr. [W. L.] Gray some Sunday soon.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 22cm. x 27.8cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Greensborough], Md., from ELIZA[BETH, MRS. DANIEL] LOWBER, Phila[del]phia, Oct. 30, [c. 1842].

Offers religious advice and comfort. Reminds her cousin that his worry about his vision may be groundless, for "few live to be old" and he may die before blindness can overtake him. Speaks of Mary Banning, Mary Dunning, and "my Mr. [Daniel] Lowber".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MR. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Nov. 3, 1842.

Will soon start a two weeks furlough. Makes arrangements for their planned trip to Sussex County. Also expects to see "Aunt Semans" in Cecil County, Maryland. Was glad to hear Ann [duPont] may join the church.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25.7cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, "Cherbourg", [near] Dover, Nov. 14, 1842.

Regrets their disrupted plans but hopes they may spend a night together before he returns. Has postponed the trip to Georgetown. Louisa Eccleston was baptised yesterday. Brought the books Nicholas wanted.

A. L. S. 1 p. 22cm. x 27.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Dec. 1, 1842.

Philosophizes on the privilege of correspondence with dear friends, the temptations of "light reading" and the religious advantages of a city. Discusses Mr. and Mrs. . . . Cullen and Lydia Cullen. Mentions a buffalo robe, Waylands *Moral Science*, a cold stage journey, Bishop [Alfred] Lee and Mr. . . . Franklin. Recommends Mrs. . . . Milligan's remedy of diluted brandy and salt for Nicholas' eyes.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Dover, Jan. 16, [1843].

Hopes her brother can visit Dover while she is there. Arrived a few days ago with her husband, "Miss Aimee" [Amelia Elizabeth duPont] and the baby's nurse. Hears his work highly praised. Believes she will be less homesick for knowing the household in Dover as it is now. "The Bishop [Alfred Lee] is doing much good in our church." Has not been confirmed, for fear of being unable to keep the vows she must make.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from DAN[IE]L M. BATES, Dover, Feb. 11, 1843.

The social intercourse accompanying a session of the Legislature has interrupted a winter of intense study. Enjoys himself in company more than he expected, and hopes this will "rub off my awkwardness". Miss [Mary] duPont who is in Dover with Mr. and Mrs. [Charles I.] duPont, has many admirers. Miss . . . Wales is staying with Dr. [William] Morris. Somewhat envies Nicholas his life work, but has put aside all thought of the ministry, and now looks forward eagerly to practicing law. Misses Nicholas' spiritual companionship. Gives the church and Sunday School news of the neighborhood. "Mr. [Albert?] Barnes, the Reformer" has not met with much success hereabouts. Has not heard from A. W. Milby.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 22cm. x 27.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. C[OMEGYS], Philadelphia, Feb. 13, 1843.

Has again considered and rejected the feasibility of a nine year theological course. Tells of the recent activities of his church. Wishes "poor desolate Dover" could share its advantages. Worries about mutual friends indifferent to salvation. Will try Nicholas' suggestions for memory training. Cannot bring himself to ridicule [William] Miller's probably mistaken teachings [of the end of the world]. Inquires about Dover and Georgetown.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 22cm. x 27.7cm.

MR. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from [MISS] ELIZABETH BANNING, "Oak Hill", Wilmington, Feb. 17, 1843.

Invites him to attend her wedding on March 6th. Regrets having allowed their correspondence to lapse. Aunt Betsy [Mrs. Daniel] Lowber is very ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY, Philadelphia] from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, [Dover], March 31, 1843.

Refers to Nicholas' examinations, to "Mercer's trial", a visit from Mr. and Mrs. [C. P.] Comegys, and sister's [Mrs. Charles I. duPont] recovery from a recent illness. The firemen's parade in Philadelphia reminds her of when she broke her toe in rushing to see one in Wilmington while she was there at school. Ann Manlove and Henry Berton are married. Miss Ann Frazier is dead. "Liston A. Houston has the office and poor [William] Huffington is disappointed." Inquires about Miss Mary Davy and "cousin Lober" [Mrs. Daniel Lowber], and about vanilla purchased for [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely]. Sends a message to Mr. [BenjaminB.] Comegys from "Ma" [Mrs. Henry M. Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], from REV. JOHN BAYNE, [n. p.], April 1, 1843.

Asks Mr. Ridgely to make certain reports for him at Conference. Hopes Providence may permit them to "travel together another year". Refers to the Education Fund.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, May 27, 1843.

Apologizes for paying the postage since haste makes the letter too brief to let Nicholas pay for it. Will visit in Dover soon. Hopes they can go to Georgetown, for Miss Lydia [Cullen], now in the city, returns home shortly. Mentions Sarah Boyd.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from A. W. MILBY, New Holland, Penna., May 27, 1843.

Describes the location and duties of his own new pastoral station. Finds "very little religion" there and virtually "no agreeable society". Discusses his studies. Hopes they may be together next year. Recently visited Delaware. Thinks Dan[iel M.] Bates may be seeking a wife and that he can probably "get his choice", though so frail a man really should not marry. Alludes to a family of four generations of "open-mouth infidels" on his circuit.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from S. A. [MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, June 4, 1843.

Hopes he will visit Dover soon; Mr. [Rev. James] Nicols or any other friends will also be welcome. Explains the plans for the interior of the Dover [Methodist] Church. [Rev. J. D.] Long, though not an exceptional preacher, is well liked as a man. "I feel very much discouraged. I have been married more than a year and can see no good that I have been able to do in the family and I many times fear that I have done harm." Refers to "Pem" Manlove. "Willie" [Ridgely] is visiting Ann [duPont].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from A. W. MILBY, New Holland, Penna., June 28, 1843.

Discusses the role of faith in the minister's life, the dissatisfaction he and Nicholas feel with their own spiritual progress, and the studies both are pursuing. See little hope of usefulness in his present station, for "Methodist is a term of reproach" in the neighborhood, where many of the residents are Universalists, and the Lutheran and German Reformed Churches are both seeking "regular and popular ministers". Should either succeed it will be impossible to continue a Methodist Church. It might, however, be best for the community. Tells of some of his parishioners. Remarks that the fifty-mile trip from either Wilmington or Philadelphia can be made in a single day.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, July 8, 1843.

It is difficult to adjust to his routine since his return from a vacation. Is convinced he must remain in his present uncongenial business. Will try to "grow in grace and spirituality", pay closer attention to business, and achieve intellectual self-improvement. Recalls their "visit to Sussex" and confides his hopes and fears concerning Lydia Cullen. Does not expect to go West in the fall. Asks Nicholas to accompany him again to Georgetown, [Del.]. Refers to Prideaux, [*Life of*] Leo X. and *The Biblical Cabinet*.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 22.4cm. x 27cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY] and A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, July 24, [c. 1843].

Ann apologizes for her failure to write. Hopes "Willy" may stay all summer for "she is improving in manners and mind". Summarizes Bishop Lee's sermon on the temptations to sin. Has not yet been confirmed.

"Willie" writes that she has enjoyed this visit in Wilmington more than any other, possibly because she is now old enough

to fully appreciate the duPont home. Mary [duPont] has gone to Cape May, [New Jersey]. Has determined to make herself "worthy of being called Father's daughter". Mentions Bishop and Mrs. [Alfred] Lee and her own family. "Louviers" is very lovely now.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Aug. 17, 1843.

Has just returned from an unexpected business trip through New York, Albany, Buffalo, Toledo, Columbus, Wheeling and Baltimore in pursuit of goods his firm wished to attach for debt. The trip was pleasant except for the lack of a friend to share it. Attended a Methodist love feast in a northern Ohio town. Admits that he "hardly thought of religion while absent" and spent one Sunday in a steamboat on Lake Erie. Is depressed because he backslides so quickly and recovers so slowly. Admires Dr. . . . Parker, his pastor. Is troubled about L[ydia Cullen]. Poverty alone prevents him from seeking an engagement with her, but he cannot write her lest he commit himself. Has sent her a few newspapers to assure her he has not forgotten her. Is reading Dr. Alcott's *The Young Husband*, seeking the advice he cannot ask of friends and relatives. Alludes to Nicholas' "overwhelming" trials. Has sent him *Life of Leo X* in four volumes, Prideaux' *Connections*, two volumes, and Neander's *History Of Ch[ristia]n Religion*, one volume.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 22cm. x 27cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, Aug. 26, [c. 1843].

She, Mr. duPont and some of the servants have had the debilitating "influenza . . . so prevalent throughout the country." Comments upon a recent visit of outstanding [Methodist] preachers to Dover and Smyrna, the controversy in the Episcopal church over Dr. [Edward B.] Pusey's sermon [The Holy Eucharist], and "Melville's sermons". Believes Eugene [Ridgely] should have a farm to operate; his present galling "state of dependence" leads to rebellion and undesirable associations. Wishes he would marry. Discusses the sisters Ruth Ann and Virginia Jenkins. Wonder if [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] will "address" Virginia. Mentions Sophie [duPont], the departure of Frank [Commander S. F.] duPont for China in command of [U. S. S.] *Perry*, her own little daughter [Amie duPont], an accident to cousin [Elizabeth] Lowber, the death of Mrs. . . . Harper, a "Mr. Broom at Hamilton Village", and "one of James Broom's daughters."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from A. W. MILBY, Honey Brooke P. O., Chester County, [Penna.], Sept. 20, 1843.

Living on the circuit offers the only adequate support, yet curtails his time for study. Tells of their friends Brothers . . . Humphries, . . . Combe and . . . Ayars. Discusses his troubled state of mind. Is convinced "the Lord does not sanction Camp Meetings in the State of Penn[sylvani]a". The one he attended was disorderly and produced no conversions.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from S. A. [MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 2, 1843.

Announces the intended marriages of [Dr.] Henry Ridgely to Virginia Jenkins and Dr. [Isaac] Jump to Ruth Anna Jenkins. Though plans are not complete, she supposes both ceremonies will take place in about a month. The sisters are now in Philadelphia "making preparations", with Henry as their escort. Has had a busy summer. Will send Nicholas' books and shirts when Mr. . . . Cooper goes to Maryland. [Henry M. Ridgely] has had influenza severely. She and Eugene [Ridgely] have also been ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Oct. 27, 1843.

Begs Nicholas to join him in Dover early in November and go with him to Georgetown. Will consult his family before proposing marriage to Lydia Cullen. Complains of his poverty, the only consideration which now makes him hesitate. Tells of church affairs and comments on Dr. Humphrey's *Letters To A Son In The Ministry*.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Georgetown, Del., Oct. 28, 1843.

Sends him the money for which he asked. "As to repayment, put yourself to no trouble respecting it." Promises to assist him to the limit of his own ability at any time in the future. Invites him to visit and to bring any friends he cares to. Is remodelling and enlarging his house. His son, George Henry [Ridgely] is just recovering "from a severe & dangerous attack".

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, [Md.], from [JONATHAN AND RUTH B. JENKINS], Camden, [Del., Nov.] 11, 1843.

Extends a formal invitation for the evening of Thursday, [Nov.] 16, at five o'clock.

N. U. 1 p. 12.6cm. x 19.8cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md.] from "WILLIE" MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 7, 1843.

Sends a shirt and pair of knitted stockings she has made. Mentions recent visits from Mr. [J. D.] Long, Mr. . . . Palmeter, Sister [Ann duPont], Brother Charles [G. Ridgely], and Edward Wells. Delivers a teasing message from [Eu]gene, who sends his love to his brother and "the prettiest girl on the circuit". Hopes Nicholas can be home for Christmas. Alludes to Mr. . . . McDaniel's marriage.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.3cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES duPONT], Wilm[ingto]n, Dec. 8, [1843].

Their father willingly purchased the wardrobe Ann selected for "Willie" [Ridgely] during her recent visit. Comments on the "distressed state" of business; "ruin seems to pervade the community". Assured [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] that Nicholas would not marry until he could support a wife. Knows his piety would delight their mother and sister Elizabeth [Ridgely]. It was Mrs. [Ann] Wales, not gentle, tolerant Mrs. Sophie duPont, who deplored his choice of denomination. Tells of flippant Mrs. Sarah Young. Refers to Mary [duPont] and her own small daughter [Amie duPont].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Dec. 12, 1843.

Worried over his father's [financial] trouble in which he can help so little and which prevents his making any commitment to Lydia [Cullen]. Surrendering "hopes that assumed almost a tangible shape" cost him a bitter struggle. As a director of the Philadelphia Tract Society he dreads "an open apostacy". Alludes to a sudden death in "Mr. Milligan's family", Mrs. Thomas Oliver's (nee Rebecca Burton) death and Dan[iel] Bates failure to visit him. "The lecture system has died away in Phil[adelphia] and the people are now crowding the theatres, concerts, etc. Religion . . . is at a low ebb" everywhere.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 22cm. x 27.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Jan. 23, 1843 [sic 1844 correct].

Comments upon "the anxiety and toil which the close of the year brings to an accountant," the absence of revivals in the churches in Philadelphia, a revival with several conversions in Dover, his own study of Latin, and his weakened zeal since the

backsliding of his Western trip. Discusses a sermon on dancing in the *National Preacher*, and some religious books. "Poor [Rev. James] Nicols is in the Insane Hospital in this City."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 23cm. x 28.5cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from EUGENE RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 27, [18]44.

Asks his brother to come to the protracted meeting in Dover that has now lasted over three weeks and will continue some time longer. Names seventeen recent Methodist converts; cannot understand his own failure to be affected by conversions, sermons, "shouting and praying" and seeing his friends go to the Mourner's Bench. If it were not for the revival to give a topic of conversation "we should all die of ennui". Mentions Major Jo Harper's family, Mr. . . . Wolcott, and . . . Wilkerson and . . . Griffen, his predecessors at "the lower Hotel". Alludes teasingly to Leap Year and the girls of Greensborough.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 21cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Georgetown, Del., Jan. 29, 1844.

Asks his brother to collect a note a certain James R. Stewart of Whiteleysberg, [Delaware], is ready to pay. Offers the usual five percent commission. Mentions Judge [Caleb S.] Layton, his brother Dr. Garrett S. Layton, and Mr. [James] Nicols.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., from "PEM" [MANLOVE], Dover, Feb. 5, 1844.

Knows his friend will be delighted to learn that he has publicly stated an interest in religion. Has not achieved the fervor some are blessed with, but is seeking conversion. Almost everyone in Dover is affected by the revival. Even Eugene [Ridgely] has acknowledged that he was seeking "the blessing of the Lord". Names several of the more than fifty persons who have recently joined the church.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensborough, Md., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DU]PONT], Wilmington, Feb. 7, [c. 1844].

Two injuries to her hand have delayed her correspondence and sewing. Writes of Rev. Mr. Woodward's lecture on astronomy at the Lyceum, d'Aubigné's *History of the Reformation*, and Bishop [Alfred] Lee's sermons. Her little daughter, though not quite two years old, already knows her letters. When [Amie duPont] upsets the ink while the letter is being written her mother reminisces about the time Nicholas received "a birthday

present of an unfortunate plate of molasses candy", and her own resultant embarrassment. Mentions Elizabeth [Mrs. Edward] Gillilan and [Mrs.] Helen Ruff.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., July 22, 1844.

Sympathized with him in a recent trial. Offers shopping suggestions. Sends some money, a gift, unless his father leaves him a legacy. Congratulates Mary [Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely] on her preserving.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, May 8, 1846.

Their father's [Henry M. Ridgely] condition has changed little since Nicholas left. The family hopes to take a trip to Wilmington by boat when he can travel. Hears that Nicholas is living near "Moore Hall" and that Aunt [Mary] Morris is planning to visit him. Implies some recent breach between the Morris and Ridgely families. Dr. [Joseph] Maull's death has made William Temple the fourth Governor of the State "within a year" [actually 16 months]. George Fisher remains Secretary of State. Mentions Mary [Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely], "Aunt" [Mary B. Ridgely], Virginia and "Sonny" [Mrs. Henry Ridgely and son Jonathan], [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely], Dr. [James R.] Anderson and Rev. Mr. [Henry] Sutton.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Aug. 22, [1846].

Father [H. M. Ridgely] gains strength slowly. Sister [Ann duPont] is down. Everyone expects Nicholas will preach at the meeting of the Bible Society. Dr. [James R.] Anderson is to be married to Hester Truit, to everyone's amazement. "Aunt" [Mary B. Ridgely] is still in poor health. There is much illness this summer around Dover. Refers to Mr. . . . Gayley; Anna Maria Morris; Mr. . . . Wynkoop; Dan Bates; [Dr.] Henry, Virginia and [their] baby, [Jonathan J. Ridgely]; and Mr. and Mrs. . . . Manlove. Mary Bateman is recovering but will remain frail.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [REV.] JAMES NICOLS, Harwood, [near] Hillsborough, Md., Sept. 8, 1846.

Is much better though he still has days of illness. Writes of the comfort his religion proved during his trials and of his

gratitude to his loyal wife, brother and daughter. Has an infant [daughter], Margaret N[icols], named for her great-grandmother, Mrs. [Margaret] Baynard. Understands Nicholas' pleasure in rambling through "Moore Hall". Wishes he had leisure to visit Phoenixville but is building a house on his farm at Hillsborough. Hopes the Ridgelys enjoy having their own home.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 31cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., Sept. 10, 1846.

Wishes Nicholas happiness in his new home. Offers some preserved peaches, a cash gift for "necessary comforts" and advice about family matters. He should visit Dover soon [for Henry M. and Mary B. Ridgely's sake]. "The will" may stay unsigned. Hopes a wealthy parishioner's difficulties do not curtail Nicholas' income. Mention [A. W.] Milby, her own husband who is concerned over John's . . . overwork, unfortunate "Captain W. . . .", and Mrs. Wage's daughter. Regrets that Mary Wage, now here with her two sons, is "a confirmed Swedenborgian", as is Mrs. Eaton. Hears Charlie and James Clayton, "tired already of farming" are studying law. Mentions Mrs. I[rene] duPont.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from G. LANE and C. B. TIPPETT, New York, N. Y., Sept. 19, 1846.

Quotes a subscription rate. Since the next Conference may revise the *Discipline*, believes no new index should now be prepared. Otherwise they would be glad to avail themselves of his offer.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, Oct. 8, [1846].

Hopes Nicholas has recovered and that Aunt [Mary] Morris' illness has not proved fatal. "She would be a great loss . . . to the town . . .; she has ever been kind to the poor and attentive to the sick. The adversity of an individual was a sufficient cause for her to forget all enmity . . . and misfortune ever opened her heart to the suffering person." Hears "Mr. . . . Comegys" did not receive "either Bank office", that George Comegys and "Pem" Manlove have both failed, and that Mr. and Mrs. [C. P.] Comegys are living with Joseph [Comegys]. Refers to James Wild and to Mrs. S. Challenger. Discusses family finances involving Nicholas, "Willy", their father and her own position as "a portionless wife." Her husband has been ill.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN] R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] D[U]P[ONT], Wilmington, Oct. 15, [c. 1846].

Regrets that she told Nicholas of "Willy's" predicament; if necessary she will send him some money she has laid aside for his silver. Alludes to sending the newest articles of Aimee's [duPont] outgrown wardrobe to Mary [Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely] to save her sewing for her expected baby.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from DAN[IE]L M. BATES, Dover, Oct. 9, 1846.

Believes church trustees operate under the rules applicable to charitable trusts and have power to alienate property, but that a formal legal opinion should be sought.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [REV.] JAMES NICOLS, Hillsborough, Md., Nov. 6, 1846.

Writes at length of the pleasures of friendship and the support faith offers in difficult struggles. Considers the "Evangelical Alliance" a Christian achievement of the highest significance. Comments on an account of the [Aaron] Burr-[Alexander] Hamilton duel.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 9, 1846.

Notifies his brother that their father has been "seized with a severe paralytic convulsion" at three separate times during the morning, and though now resting more easily, is critically ill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DU]PONT], Dover, Nov. 13, [1846].

Father [Henry M. Ridgely] is much better after an extremely dangerous attack. He is conscious and rational, but very weak. He still suffers much pain.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from W[ILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Nov. 20, [1846].

Their father is improving and has been downstairs, but the family fear he will never fully recover. Is glad Mary [Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely] and baby Henry [M. Ridgely, born Nov. 13] are doing so well. Mrs. . . . Parker (nee Gardiner) of Georgetown gossips that his wife's treatment of Brother Charles [George Ridgely] during his last illness "was terrible", and that

she is now operating a boarding house for medical students, . . . Tharp and . . . Cahal among them. Mentions Amanda Manlove, Mr. . . . Campbell, and Mr. [M. D.] Kurtz' marriage to a "very gay" bride who is not "a professor of religion".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Nov. 30, [1846].

Their father is so much better they hope he will soon be entirely well. Inquires for [Mary and Henry Ridgely]. Expects Sister [Mrs. Charles I. duPont] for a long visit. Mary Frame is dead. Refers to Mr. and Mrs. [C. P.] Comegys and Maria [Comegys].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from EDWARD [RIDGELY], Dover, Dec. 18, 1846.

Their father has had a relapse, with two additional seizures, and is not expected to live until morning. Ann [duPont] is with him.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Dec. 21, [1846].

Their father shows some improvement but his condition remains critical. It has been impossible to have him bled for fear of inducing equally dangerous and even more distressing symptoms. Ann's [duPont] help has been invaluable. Gene [Ridgely] is ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 21, [18]46.

Their father continues critically ill. He has sometimes been delirious but has shown none of the "distressing symptoms" of his first attack. Is eager to see Nicholas' son [Henry M. Ridgely]; "if he is as fine a fellow as mine [Jonathan Jenkins Ridgely] he is something to be proud of".

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS "WILLIE" [WILLIAMINA] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Phoenixville, Penna., Dec. 21, 1846.

Was shocked by word of their father's relapse. Would have come home had the letter reached him "in time for today's cars", but has now given up the idea, since his father, if the attack

proved fatal, would have been buried before he could possibly reach Dover. Ask for immediate word. Mentions their step-mother, other members of the family, and his own wife and son.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.6cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, Dec. 22, 1846.

[Nicholas' brother-in-law writes that the latter's wife and son Ridgely Tilden] have arrived safely. Has successfully treated his first patient since settling in the city, has twice preached at the 8th Street Church, attended numerous religious meetings, and been recommended to the congregation as a physician. May borrow a thousand dollars to establish a practice in the city. Suitable cradles cost \$5.50. Mentions Bro[ther] . . . King, Dr. . . . Dresbin, Br[other] . . . Tompkins and "Mary's Uncle John Allen". Finds himself able to preach more freely before large city congregations than in the little churches of York County.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Dec. 22, [1846].

Their father is improving after his relapse. [Eu]gene [Ridgely] is also better. Sends Nicholas a message from Ann [duPont] about his spoons, and from little Aimee duPont "a hundred kisses to Aunt Mary's [Ridgely] little Sonny" [Henry M. Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Dec. 25, 1846.

After being "astonishingly better" for several days their father [Henry M. Ridgely] is very weak again. The doctors consider his constitution remarkable. Tells of Aimee's [duPont] "visit from 'old Chris' which very much delighted her", and the Christmas stockings her father brought her. Mentions baby Henry [M. Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Dec. 30, [1846].

Father [Henry M. Ridgely] is now very much better though not yet able to sit up. Hopes Nicholas' spoons will soon be delivered by Mr. . . . Richards. Sister [Ann duPont] "does not put any pickle with her meat at all; she puts about three pecks of salt and about three pounds of saltpetre to a thousand weight of pork". Is delighted her little nephew [Henry M. Ridgely] is growing so well.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Dover, Jan. 11, [1847].

Tells of persuading their father to leave him a specific legacy with his share in the residual estate. Criticizes the arrangement [Henry M. Ridgely] has made for his younger children, though she knows it is well intended. Points out that she risked a tragic quarrel for Nicholas alone, though Eugene has equal need and "is devoting the best years of his life to his father's comfort". Consequently begs him to join her, "Will" and Ned in surrendering all claim to "Linden" to Eugene. Believes their stepmother has been left a life estate in all the property except the Duck Creek farm, and the law library which goes to Ned.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from REV. L. SCOTT, Philadelphia, Jan. 18, 1847.

Is pleased that Mr. Ridgely has decided to arrange for the building of a "house" in Phoenixville. Likes the plan submitted. Will inquire about an architect. Cautions against involving the society in any burdensome debt, though he trusts the young clergyman's judgment in the matter.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] JA[ME]S COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., Jan. 18, 1847.

The proposal to remove the county seat from New Castle to Wilmington is again being agitated and is linked with a movement to establish the State capital there also. The residents of New Castle village and the lower hundreds of New Castle County consider the location of the county seat was settled by the special election of 1839. Since Red Lion, St. Georges and Appoquinimink Hundreds are unrepresented in the present Assembly their people feel it would be unjust to submit to it an issue so important to them. Asks Nicholas to send "a line . . . in our favour to your friend Mr. Daniel Bates of Dover".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Jan. 21, 1847.

Has accepted a new position and is overwhelmed by the neglected work of his predecessor. Plans to marry during the year. Congratulates Nicholas on the birth of his son [Henry M. Ridgely]. Hears Mr. [Henry M.] Ridgely is rapidly recovering. Refers to his [own] cousin Jim . . . and brother John [Comegys]. Extends a pressing invitation to visit him when his new home is established. Is not free to entertain at his present lodgings.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Jan. 28, 1847.

Thinks their father is better than at any time since last March. Is eager to see Nicholas' baby. Acknowledges an interesting paper and asks for other issues of it. "Dover is very full of strangers now; the town was filled to overflowing at the inauguration of Mr. [Governor William] Tharp". Though he is "very diffident" he made an excellent address. Mentions Dr. [James] Couper [Jr.] and his brother William [Couper]. [Residents of lower New Castle County] "are going to have the county divided" if efforts to block the removal of the county seat fail. Ned [Ridgely] asks the use of a Latin dictionary. "Aunt" [Mary B. Ridgely] is hurt at Nicholas' failure to write. Aunt [Mary] Morris promises [the family data] he wanted.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from REV. JAMES R. ANDERSON, Dover, Feb. 3, 1847.

Questions the wisdom of holding "protracted meetings . . . as now conducted". Wonders if there would not be "more souls truly converted" without them. Comments upon possible new churches in Dover and at Phoenixville; Bishop [Edmund S.] Janes, who recently preached in Dover; and pending bills forbidding the sale of liquor on Sundays and permitting the local option. Thinks "the evangelical alliance in London" is a great achievement. Refers to the unusual liveliness of Dover, and to Governor [William] Tharp's inauguration.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, Feb. 9, 1847.

His family has been ill, Ridgely [Tilden] "upon the verge of the grave with a catarrhal fever". His financial problems are acute. Never before fully appreciated the consolations of Christian faith. Discusses his plans and prospects. Promises to recommend Mrs. . . . Ballantine to his patients for "nursery in child-bed". Good nurses in the city receive \$6.00 a week and do no washing. Has heard Bishop [Leonidas L.] Hamlen and Mr. . . . Milburn preach.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, Feb. 20, 1847.

Is recovering from an illness. Fears he cannot accept his sister's offer [of having his wife stay with the Ridgely family

at the time of her child's birth] because "you have but one chamber in which you can have a fire". In March it would be unsafe for either woman to occupy an unheated room.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Feb. 22, 1947.

Pleads for a long visit at Conference time. Father [Henry M. Ridgely] is much better, though his wife must still wait on him a great deal. "Old Mr. [John] Woodall" died Saturday after a brief illness. Fears his family is "left very destitute". The Assembly defeated the bill to move the New Castle County seat and provided for a referendum on local option for the Hundreds. General . . . Riley has been lecturing in Dover on temperance. Announces her own engagement to Mr. [Alexander] Johnson. Anticipates no objection, since her fiance is so "generally beloved and respected throughout the county". Alludes to Nicholas' family, [Mrs. Charles I. duPont], "Aunty" [Mary B. Ridgely] and "Mammy" [Margaret]. William [R.] Morris has an infant daughter Mary Middleton [Morris]. Mr. . . . Frame's death is expected. Dan[iel] Bates is Secretary of State.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, March 1, 1847.

[His wife] Mary and son Ridgely [Tilden]) will come to Phoenixville "in the cars". Appreciates [a loan or gift]. Mentions [his sisters] S[arah Tilden] and M[ary, Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely]. "Old Bro. Couper" recently died leaving an estate valued at between one hundred fifty and two hundred thousand dollars.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from MRS. E[LIZA] WOODALL, [D]over, March 2, 1846 [1847].

Expresses her gratitude to her "esteemed and beloved minister" for the comfort offered her in her sorrow. Plans to mail him a small gift in money. Recalls that he brought the late Mr. [John] Woodall into the church. Discusses religious criticism from a Quaker, Patience Jenkins; and her husband's estate. Alludes to Judge [Samuel] Harrington. "Brother [Henry] Sutton, my Brother Thomas Pickering", her stepchildren and her own children [Cornelia and] Franklin [Woodall]. Her son is at school in Wilmington.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, March 3, 1847.

[Henry M. Ridgely] is rallying from a recent attack more rapidly than from any previous one. The family believes the seizure was brought on by lack of exercise, for dull, damp weather had prevented his customary walks. [Ann duPont] will not take the long trip down from Wilmington.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from E[LIZA, MRS. JOHN] W[OODALL], Dover, March 9, [18]47.

Insists that Mr. Ridgely accept her small gift in the name of his son if not for himself, for she offers this to him and another to Brother [Henry] Sutton as a religious duty. Has "not escaped unpleasant feelings from some of Mr. [John] Woodall's first children". Wished her husband to be buried "in the Dover Meeting-ground but the Quakers claimed his body". Discusses her problems, personal and financial, and the support her faith has given her. Hears [Henry M. Ridgely] has made a will. Mentions [Mrs. Mary] Morris, Michel Offley, Jr., John Woodall, [Jr.], and Mr. . . . Needham who is "no longer a Millerite".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, March 17, [1847].

Will delay a trip to Dover if their father grows no worse, for her own household has been neglected because of his frequent need of her. Feels she must be with him whenever he requires special nursing and is always ready to leave at a moment's notice. Will welcome Mary [Ridgely, Sarah Tilden] and little Henry Moore [Ridgely]. Expects this baby equals [Dr.] Henry's [Ridgely] "intelligent and handsome" son [Jonathan Ridgely]. Approves "Willy's" [Ridgely] engagement to Mr. [Alexander] Johnson, a man "as universally popular . . . as any one in the county". Pities Mrs. . . . Frame, whose husband is dying and whose daughter Mary [Frame] recently died.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna], from DAN-[IE]L M. BATES, Dover, March 17, 1847.

His profession and [duties as Delaware Secretary of State] reduce him "almost to a complete slavery", leaving him time for nothing. The "Removal Bill" failed at this session but has so much support in New Castle County its members chosen at the next election will be pledged to it and those from the lower counties will not then oppose it.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [REV.] JAMES NICOLS, "The Range", near Hillsborough, Md., March 22, 1847.

Is settled on his farm, upon which he did much of the work alone for a considerable time. Prefers white workmen. Tells of his nearly finished house and the new "patent cooking stove", the delight of his wife and maid. Recounts church affairs of the neighborhood and his own religious life. Enjoyed *The Great Commisison* and the final volume of d'Aubigné's *Reformation*. Cannot yet bear the excitement of attending Conference.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.4cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, March 22, 1847.

Is disappointed that he and his family will not visit Dover at Conference time. Is eager to see his son. Comments on the death of Mr. . . . Frame so soon after that of his daughter; his wife "has had nothing but trouble during her whole life". Expects Nicholas to officiate at her marriage in June. B[enjamin B.] Comegys is to be married soon. Jane Nesbit is engaged to a wealthy Mr. Rogers, of Baltimore. "Lizzie Comegys (Chatham)" has a daughter Ruhamah Marim [Chatham]. Fears "Mammy" [Margaret], is failing. Mentions "Aunt" [Mary B. Ridgely], Henry's family, and the [Rev.] Dr. [James R.] Anderson's marriage.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, March 24, 1847.

Has just shipped him a barrel of flour "ground by Peter Hines at Cowgill's mill" from wheat raised on his own farm. Explains how the barrel is to be claimed at Neal & Barratt's storehouse on Pine St. Wharf, and cautions against allowing its contents to become damp. "We are all anxious to see that boy [Henry M. Ridgely] you brag about so much in your letters" and to compare him with [Jonathan Ridgely]. Their father is better, but seems weak.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phila[delphia] Con[ference], from D. P. KIDDER, N[ew] York, [N. Y.], March 29, 1847.

The S[unday] S[chool] Union has granted Mr. Ridgely's application for "\$6.00 worth of books & Tracts besides 6 Bibles & 18 Test[ament]s" for the Lumberville [School]. Asks instruction for sending the packages. [An enclosed itemized list dated May 4, 1847 shows 24 Sunday School Hymns, . . . *Child's Litany* B 8, and 12 Spelling Books].

A. L. S. 1 + 1 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, April 27, 1847.

Will be married June 10th. Feels "rather sad" at the thought of leaving home forever. Will soon visit Ann [duPont]. "The explosion [at the duPont mills] was indeed horrible". "Lou-viers" was considerable damaged. The [duPont family] is also deeply grieved by Thomas Shubrick's death at Vera Cruz; "poor Mary [duPont] is in a great deal of trouble and will not be down in June". [Henry M. Ridgely] appears better. Asks teasingly about the baby's progress. "Sonny" [Jonathan Ridgely] now says a few words. "William Cooper and Elizabeth Taylor are married. Are you not astonished, amazed, shocked?" Refers to "Aunty" [Mary B. Ridgely] and "Mammy" [Margaret]. Hopes the late frost has not damaged the fruit.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington, c. May 1847].

"This awful explosion has nearly torn our house up. We were for several days confined to one room in which we ate, slept & sat". That room was made habitable only by nailing blankets and carpets at the windows. News of Thomas Shubrick's death, received shortly before the explosion, has brought sorrow to the whole family. Describes him as "so full of life & joyousness" and one of the handsomest men she ever saw. Recalls his frequent visits to her home the previous winter, his kindness, courtesy, and "the romps he had with Aimee [duPont]". The family likes "Willy's" [Ridgely] intended husband, [Alexander] Johnson. Tells of plans for the wedding and of "Willy's" presence in Wilmington. Margaret Stevenson of Dover is about to marry Mr. [Jas. A.] Dunning, and Emeline Dunning, Mr. [Simon] Spearman. Nancy Vanderver, "old Mrs. Smith" and Rebecca Frazier, and others have died in Dover. Mr. duPont has secured a position for John Comegys as assistant teller in the Farmers Bank at Wilmington at \$300.00 per year. Purnell Lofland is in Mexico "as Lieutenant in the Delaware Volunteer regiment". Mentions Jim Clayton, Mr. . . . Darly and Hannah [Darly].

A. L. [S. Implied] 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, May 10, 1847.

Acknowledges \$15.00 from Nicholas. Has been unable to diagnose his own infant's illness. Of his wife's condition he writes: "Judging the cough to be occasioned by the translation of the rheumatism from the leg to the lungs", he treated her

accordingly with satisfactory results. Discusses family plans and financial difficulties. Tells of subscribing more than he could afford for church use and afterwards receiving the promise of an influential man's patronage. Mentions Judge . . . Drinker.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, May 22, 1847.

Lengthily discusses the cause and treatment of diarrhea in teething children. Tells of waiting at the station with a package a friend was to take to Phoenixville "till the whip was put to the horses attached to the baggage car", and of getting the box aboard the moving vehicle. Mentions tickets to be gotten at the Sunday School Union in Chestnut Street.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, May 25, [1847].

Recently returned from a delightful visit with their sister. Hopes Mr. [Charles I.] duPont will escape a threatened "attack of bilious [fever]". Has recently seen Mrs. [James] Couper [Jr.], Mrs. [S.] Challenger, and her school friend Henrietta George. Hears Purnell Lofland has "gone to Mexico in Cap[tai]n [George W.] Chaytor's Company, as second Lieutenant", that Simon Spearman is married to Emma Dunning, and Mr. [James A.] Dunning is soon to marry Margaret Stevenson. Mrs. Smith the baker and "Old Miss Nancy [Vandever]", among others, have died of a contagious erysipelas, and Rebecca Frazier of consumption. "Aunt" [Mary B. Ridgely] is well and father is much as usual. Hopes Miss [Sarah] Tilden will accompany Nicholas and Mary [Ridgely] to her wedding next month; "I am not going to have a party, only the families".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [REV.] JAMES NICOLS, "The Range", near Hillsboro[ugh], Md., May 25, 1847.

Complains of the difficulty of finding either hired or slave labor and of free Negroes' unwillingness to work. To show one of them that even a "tenderly bro[ugh]t up" white man was not dependent on a Negro's whims he started spading up his own garden, and has been delighted to discover how much his strength has increased, and what he can now accomplish. Moralizes upon the death of William Thawley, "a modest and amiable, but irreligious" young man. Wishes Nicholas success in erecting his new church and "filling it with happy converts". Envies him his ability to preach.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., May 27, 1847.

Trusts that "Willy's" [Ridgely] marriage will be happy, for Mr. [Alexander] Johnson is highly spoken of everywhere. He and his family must stay with her [on their way to the wedding] instead of in Philadelphia, for the boat "leaves Dock St. at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ o'clock". Hopes their house and garden are soon ready. Is worried because "her only girl . . . has again been spitting blood" and competent help is impossible to find. Has engaged "Foorace who belonged to Dr. [William] Morris". Prices have risen sharply in New Castle; many on fixed incomes are finding it difficult to manage their households.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from REV. D. P. KIDDER, New York, [N. Y.], June 5, 1847.

Discusses an order for books for Lumberville [Sunday School].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON], near Milford, [Del.], June 20, [1847].

Is happily settled in her new home. Her husband's relatives are solicitous, and she is pleasantly surprised with Marshy Hope. Difficulty in getting to church and getting the mail are the chief drawbacks of living in the country. Ridicules her own clumsy efforts to make Johnny-cake, but she redeemed herself with successful pies. "Almost wept" when she learned Nicholas' baby [Henry M. Ridgely] was in Dover. Begs for frequent letters. Heard he had to "go [home] in one of the Smyrna boats, . . . as the Portsmouth did not come down on Tuesday". Mentions "Mr. . . . Culbreth and Maria . . .".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, c. June 30, 1847].

She and her husband hope to visit him [July] 11 while en-route to Yellow Springs, where Mr. duPont plans to rest after an illness. Is anxious to see her brother's new home. Enquires for his wife and son. Ned [Ridgely] reports that their father is doing well and their nephew [Jonathan Ridgely] is improving. "Willy's" [Johnson] letters indicate she is happy in her new home. Suggests that Nicholas take "a child to bring up" instead of hiring a nurse "on wages".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Phoenixville, Penna.], from M[ARY] R. [MRS. WILLIAM] MORRIS, York, [Penna.], July 5, 1847.

May visit Nicholas on her way home. Very much wishes to see her grandfather's home, her mother's birthplace ["Moore Hall"]. Has been unable to learn what transportation is available between Paoli and Phoenixville, so may forego the trip for fear of being stranded if she leaves the train only to find no connections exist.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 24cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE", [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON], Dover, July 8, 1847.

Is in Dover where she learned that no one had written to him. Fears she will hear at any hour of the death of [Dr.] Henry's [Ridgely] son [Jonathan J. Ridgely] who failed to rally from an illness after a relapse at Lewes. "I really don't know what they will do if he dies; they almost worship him". He is now at Camden [Delaware]. "Aunty" [Mary B. Ridgely] also is sick following a trip to Lewes. "Dover looks sweeter to me than ever" for she now realizes it is no longer home. Father [H. M. Ridgely] is better after a few days' illness. "Mrs. Dr. [Isaac] Jump" has an infant daughter. John Fisher of Smyrna, who was considered "a regular rowdy", was shot and almost totally blinded recently by unknown persons. Little sympathy is felt for him.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, July 8, 1847.

Her planned visit to Nicholas has been delayed a few days. A letter from Will[iamina] reports that their father is worse than he had been and that Henry's child [Jonathan Ridgely] was critically ill at Lewis [Lewes, Del.] when Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely left there.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penn., from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, July 10, 1847.

Has ordered him a bathtub shallower and narrower than the three feet long by two wide and two deep he suggested. "Made of the best materials, iron bound, painted, with handles" it cost only \$3.00. There is much cholera infantum with many fatalities, but his own cases have recovered. Is delighted with the increase in his practice, which yielded only \$60.25 during the first four and a half months, and \$104.99 in the past two. Advises his sister "it is all folly to saturate the system with drugs

to quiet the pain from a rotten tooth"; it should be pulled. Fears his chances of appointment as a physician to Girard College are poor for several other applicants are relatives of Directors.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from MRS. C[HARLES] I. DU PONT, Philadelphia, July 13, 1847.

Has received word of the death of Henry's child [Jonathan Jenkins Ridgely]. Grieves so deeply for [Dr.] Henry and Virginia [Ridgely] that she must postpone her visit to Phoenixville for a few days. Reminds him to write a letter of condolence. Believes Virginia [Ridgely] would appreciate one from his wife.

A. L. [S. implied] 1 p. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, July 15, 1847.

Informs him of the death of "our dear little boy" on the preceeding Friday evening. Though the child improved in the sea air at Lewes, he was too frail to rally from a relapse and died two days after being brought back to Camden. Even Nicholas cannot understand their loss, for at [Jonathan's] age children "have so many little winning ways that it seems as if you cannot love them enough. But we were too fond and too proud of our darling pet". In a religious sense he is reconciled to his son's death.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, July 15, 1847.

Supposes his brother has already heard of their nephew's [Jonathan Ridgely] death. Has not seen [Dr.] Henry or Virginia [Ridgely] except "in the carriage at the grave" in the Quaker burying ground at Camden, when they both appeared "completely broken up". There has been no school lately but he is progressing satisfactorily at home, substituting geometry for Greek which he could not continue alone. Likes geometry. Complains of heat, drought and mosquitoes. Their father has had another bad night, and "Ma" [Mrs. Henry M. Ridgely] has not been well. "Willy" [Johnson] has returned home.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [REV.] J[AMES] NICOLS, "The Range", near Hillsborough, Md., July 22, [18]47.

Is busy with his farm and is interested in it. Discusses investments in lime, "the great renewer of fertility in our exhausted soils". Is eager to visit Phoenixville and to entertain the Ridgely family at his own home. Comments on pitfalls in religious thinking.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 24cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, July 28, 1847.

Father [Henry M. Ridgely] is sick again and [their step-mother] confined to bed. Mr. [Charles I.] duPont has not been well since they returned. Enjoyed the trip to Yellow Springs and Phoenixville, despite poor connections. Charley [Charles I. duPont, Jr.] is home from college. Frank and Alicia Shubrick and Annie Vandyke are at "Louviers". Thomas Shubrick's body will be brought home for burial, a harrowing experience for his family. Virginia [Ridgely] and her father are still heart-broken at the death of "Jonty" [Jonathan J. Ridgely]. Heard Miss . . . Monroe sing *He Doeth All Things Right*, a lovely ballad about the death of a child which made a deep impression upon her. Mentions "Willie" [Johnson] and Celia Riccards.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from M[ARY] R. [MRS. WILLIAM] MORRIS, Dover, July 30, 1847.

Never regretted any act of her own "not considered sinful" more bitterly than failing to visit "Moore Hall". Allowed her daughter Anna Maria [Morris] to persuade her that three guests and their baggage would impose a real hardship on her nephew, though Emily [Morris] was eager to go and a conveyance was available. Still hopes to make the trip. Her daughters are now travelling through New York and Connecticut with their father. Henry [M. Ridgely] is distressingly weak and ill; he "seems to think he cannot remain here many days longer". Traces her mother's descent in the Moore line through Sir John Moore, knighted May 21, 1627, John Moore the American immigrant, and William Moore of "Moore Hall", her own grandfather. Names the collateral relatives Rev. Thomas Moore, chaplain to Dr. [Francis] Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester; Thomas Moore, D. D., Rector of North Bray; Daniel Moore, M. P., and his daughter, wife of Thomas Erskine, late Chancellor of England; Col. John Moore, merchant and official in New York; a beautiful Mrs. . . . Evans; Mrs. . . . Franks; and Mrs. [Mary] Rusmier. Mrs. Williamina Moore, wife of William, of "Moore Hall" was born in Scotland, daughter of a son of the Earl of Wemyss and . . . Lock. She had received her unusual given name in deference to the wishes of her mother, who, dying in childbirth after her father's death in battle, had called her *William*. Mrs. Morris reminisced about her grandmother's lovely character, her grandparents' happy marriage of sixty-seven years duration, and the odd fact that in their respective lives of [eighty-four] and ninety-one years neither ever lost a tooth. Speaks of their burial in Radnor Churchyard and of the family pew in Christ Church, Philadelphia, to the erection of which John Moore the immigrant contributed generously. Regrets she has not time to record all

the bits of family history she gathered from her mother [Ann Moore Ridgely] and aunt [Mrs. Phineas Bond], or to list the descendants of the large Moore family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from E[DWARD] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 6, 1847.

Was glad to hear from him and hurt that he had remained silent so long. Tells of their father's [Henry M. Ridgely] grave illness. Ann [duPont] and "Willy" [Johnson] are both home. Adds the note: "Five minutes past three o'clock. Father is dead".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.8cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna.,] from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, n. p., post Aug. 6, 1847].

Describes the course of their father's long illness, from his first stroke of apoplexy on March 23, 1846. Speaks of his increasing kindness, his religious interests, and his vivid memory. Tells of his final day of life.

A. Df. U. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers" [near] Wilmington, Aug. 7, 1847.

Has sent a small package by rail to Phoenixville, a gift he hopes will amuse "my little friend H. Moore Ridgely" and "relieve his mother and aunt from some of the trouble of nursing". At the latest word from Dover [Henry M. Ridgely] was in no immediate danger, though Ann [duPont] and "Willy" [Johnson] will remain some days longer. Recalls with pleasure his visit to Phoenixville. Sends compliments to Dr. . . . Penapacker, Mr. . . . Witacker and . . . Buck.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from ANN R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Dover], Aug. 11, 1847.

Describes the closing hours of their father's life. Reminded on the morning of August 6 that it was his sixty-eighth birthday, Henry M. Ridgely told his wife and Ann that he would die before evening, and repeated the prophecy to "Willy" when the clock struck three. He had asked his wife to place on his grave only a "plain marble slab with this inscription: Henry Moore Ridgely, first son of Charles Ridgely and Ann Moore his second wife. Born on . . . day . . . year, Died on the 6th of August 1847 in the blessed hope of a glorious immortality". Though his death has saddened her, she "could not breath a selfish wish to bring him back." Wishes Nicholas to copy for her, from the "old family Bible" which by general consent is now

his, the manuscript entries, "also the life of Uncle [Nicholas] Ridgely written by brother Charles which is in the *Bible* and the notice Aunt [Mary] Morris gave you of the Moore family". Sends her love to his family, remarking that little Henry M. Ridgely's name makes him especially beloved, and hoping that "his death in advanced age [may] be like his grandfather's".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6 cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 21, 1847.

Tells of her loneliness and desolation since her husband's death, and of his tender consideration of her, despite his habitual reticence. "Ned leaves soon for school, probably "Mr. [Rev. Patrick] Riley's . . . at Wilmington" [St. Mary's College]. Eugene will begin farming "Linden" in January. Considers a trip to Philadelphia with her father [C. P. Comegys] in the fall. Is anxious to see her brother George [Comegys], his wife and children. Hopes Nicholas will soon visit Dover. Mentions other members of the Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 22cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [REV.] JAMES NICOLS, "The Range", near Hillsboro[ugh], Md., Aug. 24, [18]47.

Offers condolence on the death of [Henry M. Ridgely] of which Dr. [Gove] Saulsbury told him. Has written an article for publication in the *Baltimore Clipper*, protesting mob outrages against the Methodists in Accomac [County, Virginia]. Hopes public indignation may guarantee members of the denomination their civil rights. Discusses Nicholas' complaint against the "laxity in the Discipline of the church", urging forbearance. Mentions the Easton Conference, his friend's "peculiar trials", and his own daughter's first birthday.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 31cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, Aug. 25, 1847.

Is recovering from an illness. Discusses difficulties in connection with their father's estate, relations between his widow and children, and Ned's education. It is sad that the familiar old house and its furnishings have passed to strangers and are no longer a common home to bind the family together. Alludes to Mr. Ridgely's tranquil and inspiring death, and to her own intention of following a more religious path. Wishes her husband were "pious". Says their mother "always worked her butter over once or twice and after wrapping it in the inner corn husks she put it in pickle which would bear an egg," but did not attempt

to pack it before the end of September. Peaches for preserving are scarce. Refers to little Harry's [Ridgely] baby jumper. "Mammy" Margaret continues to live with Mrs. [Sally Ann] Ridgely, supported by "Henry, Will and I . . . If the old lady would be happy here I would send for her."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, Sept. 4, 1847.

Complains of not hearing from the Ridgely family, of his wife's tardiness in returning from a visit, and of his dull medical practice. Apologizes for not delivering a note.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from EUGENE RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 7, 1847.

Asks him to draw a notice to George Slaughter to vacate "Linden" by January when he himself must accept delivery of his livestock. Plans many improvements. "Everybody is persuading me to get married, and have had only about a score of wives picked out for me. Bless their hearts, I wish I could marry them all." Ned [Ridgely] has left for school, ". . . Sipple is sparking Sally Ann Stout, and [James A.] Dunning's married to Margaret Stevenson. . . . Uncle Josey Buck is dead." Refers to their stepmother as "our good lady".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON], Dover, Sept. 14, 1847.

Has been delayed in Dover on her way to [Wilmington] because the *Portsmouth* is not running. Doubts that she can visit Phoenixville now. Writes affectionately of Nicholas' little son. Mentions her [own] husband; Ned, Eugene and "Aunty" [Mary B. Ridgely]; Mr. . . . Douglass; Mrs. . . . Comegys; Mr. . . . Sipple; Sally Ann Stout; Mr. [James A.] Dunning, Margaret Stevenson, Virginia [Ridgely], who seems better, and "poor old Mammy [Margaret who] has been very ill."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25.3cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from JOSEPH WHITAKER, [n. p.], Sept. 19, 1847.

Has no answer to his minister's warning letter except gratitude. Remains "a warm friend of the church". Admits he has at times gone riding on Sunday, but sees no harm in it and is prepared to accept the discipline of the church if other members complain of him. Has no criticism of Mr. Ridgely's ministry.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 20, 1847.

Hopes she can see him in Philadelphia soon. Regrets not visiting "Moore Hall" of which her husband so often spoke. Begs Nicholas to "write frequently to Ned [Ridgely] and guard him against the errors of Romanism" to which she fears the kindness of the priests [at St. Mary's College, Wilmington] exposes him. Misses the boy greatly. Mentions the other members of the Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 23, 1847.

Asks his brother's opinion about selling "Fox Hall" and the Duck Creek farm. Comments acidly on "Brother Charles" [George Ridgely] widow" and the Morris family, with whom she is staying for a few days. The wagon bought for Nicholas' [Henry Ridgely] son is a gift. "Would that we were as rich as you, & that we had one to love, too!" Inquiries about Squire . . . Stevenson's recently submitted bill against their father's estate.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [REV.] A. MANSHIP, Philadelphia, Sept. 24, 1847.

Can assist him with his [revival] meeting during its second week. Hints at his own engagement. Mentions [Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely, Sarah Tilden], and Bro[ther] . . . Harmstead.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15.8cm. x 20cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, [Penna.], from THO[MAS] A. FERNLEY, Pine Grove, [Penna.], Sept. 28, 1847.

Discusses "extra" and "protracted" meetings they both are arranging, mutual assistance, and a church dedication.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [REV.] JA[ME]S NICOLS, "The Range", near Hillsboro[ugh], Md., Oct. 4, 1847.

Advises his colleague that only earnest prayer can guide him in his duty toward backsliding converts. Warns that some church members clamoring for their expulsion may have offered them no support, and may be more influenced by fear of worldly criticism than by fear of God or concern for souls. Alludes to anti-Methodist mobs in Accomac [County, Virginia], and to the "much trammeled" press in Maryland.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 24cm.

REV. NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from DR. H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 11, 1847.

A Court order for the sale of "Fox Hall" and the Duck Creek farm has been granted. Asks specific instructions about the properties. Thinks \$4,000, or about \$10.00 per acre, should be the minimum valuation on "Fox Hall" and \$5,000 to \$6,000 on the Duck Creek farm, which might well be divided to attract more bids. Does not wish to make the necessary decisions alone, and wants assurance any deed he negotiates will be signed by all the heirs. Notes various points that must be agreed upon.

[Nicholas Ridgely adds a memorandum, dated Oct. 16, that he had authorized Henry to act as seems best.]

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Phoenixville, Penna.,] from [MRS.] M. P. TILDEN, Denton, [Md.], Oct. 12, 1847.

Breaks a long silence to reply to a recent letter. Complains of her poverty, and of Mr. . . . Delahay as "Charles' " administrator. Appreciates the offer of a home for Rebecca [Tilden] but declines it. Having failed to find an opening in a school on the Eastern Shore, will return to Baltimore to learn mantua-making and place Rebecca again in the "charity school" where she had previously been making excellent progress. Mrs. [Anna] Godwine's daughter Molly is dead.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from ANN, [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, Oct. 12, 1847.

Has enjoyed a visit of several weeks from "Willy" [Johnson] who "is as dear to me as a child". Feels sure Ned's [Ridgely] talents and his moral principles will both "do credit to his name". He is satisfied [at St. Mary's College, Wilmington], making rapid progress in his studies, and grateful for his instructors' kindness "in their attentions at night from a knowledge of his want of eyesight". Refers to the approaching sale of "Fox Hall" and the Duck Creek farm. Discusses the Draper farm. Tells of visiting the widow and five barefoot, thinly-clad orphans of a recently-engaged mill hand who dropped dead at work. Though she knows much help is being offered, the tragedy haunts her. Repeats her husband's description of the ragged flock running to meet their father when the closing bell rang.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Pann., from [DR.] W[ILLIA]M P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, Oct. 15, 1847.

Is relieved to learn Sarah [Tilden] is improving for he cannot properly advise her "at this distance". Describes his own quarters. Has a nurse old enough to safely care for his chil-

dren and do the laundry, but "too young to receive woman's wages". Comments on the childish behavior of the community during the current political campaign; his still encouraging practice; a revival at his church; and Bro[ther] . . . Coombe's success in dispelling prejudice [against the Methodists]. Was astonished to learn Dr. . . . Jones has taken a practice in Elkton which he himself had refused to consider. Refers to "old Bro. Long", and [Rev. A. W.] Milby.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [REV.] A[NDREW] MANSHIP, Phila[delphia], Oct. 20, 1847.

Writes of an errand done for Mr. Ridgely, a recent visit to Phoenixville, plans for a protracted meeting, and of mutual acquaintances. Mentions Brothers . . . Hurmstead, . . . Gladding, . . . Combs, . . . Starks, [John] Bayne and [David] Shields, and the members of Mr. Ridgely's family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, . . . , Penna., from EUGENE RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 21, [c. 1847].

Acknowledges a letter. Sends \$10.00 explaining that "our good lady" had forgotten to give him a previous message concerning it.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, Oct. 23, 1847.

She and her husband advise against purchasing the Draper farm, which would sell for \$3,000, would require a heavy additional investment, and would need supervision he is not able to give. As for living on it "fancy yourself getting up by day break and going out with seven or eight blacks to work on the farm, and your delicate wife, with wretched help, cooking their dinners and making their coarse clothes". By investing the same sum in Wilmington Railroad bonds or Treasury notes, "safe, as it is not likely the United States will break", he might in ten years be able to "buy that dear old house in Dover with a lot" and still have sufficient annual interest for his support. Suggests the heirs hold and improve the Draper property for a few years as an experiment. Discusses other farm and estate affairs, mentioning all members of the family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.6cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Phoenixville, Penna.], from T. A. FERNLEY, Pine Grove, Penna., Oct. 23, 1847.

Unexpected appointments prevent him from assisting with the Phoenixville meeting. Refers to Bro[ther David] Shields.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from DR. W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, Nov. . . ., 1847.

Nicholas can obtain his money from "the savings institution" next week. Refers to a cloak soon to be sent to Phoenixville, and to a good muff bought for \$8.00. His practice is increasing. His wife has been seriously ill from "inflammation of the right lung", both children are sick, and he himself is just able to be about.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, [Penna.], from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, Nov. 2, 1847.

Her husband suggests "Wilmington railroad bonds" as an excellent investment. By careful reinvestment he might build up a capital of eight or ten thousand dollars. If he insists on buying the Draper farm, he should borrow enough to improve it at once. Explains her previous suggestion about it. Alludes to Edward [Ridgely's] share in the estate. Her husband hopes to build up her own worn out farm. He may buy "Fox Hall" for the wood rights if the heirs sell. Hopes she has not seemed dictatorial; "I know you are one who think I attempt to influence the family in every matter, or rather somewhat agree with our step-mother in thinking I try to rule, but . . . it is only because I am so interested in my family that I interfere so in their concerns; in time I shall learn better."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, Nov. 5, 1847.

Has an apartment at 279 N. 8th St. [Mrs.] Anna Godwin is now confined in the [insane] asylum "on the road to Huddington". After having reconciled herself to the death of a child she had spent a day "with a good old Methodist Lady . . . more pious than wise" who dwelt on the tragedy during the whole visit. Hopes she may recover as her general health mends. Mentions Brother . . . Garrett, Isabelle and Ridgely [Tilden] and family illnesses.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna.], from "WILLIE" MRS. A[LEXANDER] JOHNSON, near Milford, [Del], Nov. 8, 1847.

Regrets that she did not visit Phoenixville during her last trip to Wilmington, "but I had no one at all to go with me and I was too much of a coward to venture alone". Discusses relatives and acquaintances, mentioning Virginia and Henry [Ridgely], Mrs. [S. A.] Ridgely, Mr. and Mrs. [Cornelius P.] Comegys, "Mammy" [Margaret], the death of Ellie (Green) Harris, the sale of "Fox Hall", little Harry [Ridgely], a "beautiful [mar-

riage] certificate" Nicholas [Ridgely] has sent, the "very plain" but kindly people of Marshy Hope, and the insanity of Mrs. Anne Eliza (Lockhard) Godwin. She is in the [mental] Hospital at Blackley where [Charles] Marim was treated. The court has ordered reargument in the case of a Negro sentenced to be sold for fourteen years for "persuading away slaves".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.4cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I.] duPONT, Wilmington, Nov. 16, 1847.

"Fox Hall" was not sold. Her husband placed a bid on it, knowing how she loved "father's pet farm". It now rents for only \$12.00 yearly. He has contracted for \$6,000 worth of improvements on her tract, "Barrenplain", now completely run down, and with deplorable buildings, but thinks the investment will pay. Also discusses the condition, value and disposition of "Linden" and the Draper farm, with a tentative plan for improving the latter. Continues to urge him to invest his legacy in [Delaware Railroad] bonds. Will explain his proposal to Eugene [Ridgely]. Mentions other members of the family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna.], from CHARLES I. duPONT, "Louviers", [near Wilmington], Nov. 27, 1847.

Advises him to exchange his Farmers Bank stock for Wilmington R[ail] R[oad] bonds, now a bargain because failures in England have forced investors everywhere to sacrifice securities to meet unexpected demands. The line is well financed and well placed; moreover, the State of Delaware, having invested \$80,000 in it, will charter no rival roads. Though his own improvements at "Barren Plain" leave him no funds to invest now, the pleasure of "showing a farm like 'the Hermitage' in Kent County" will repay him for the lost opportunity. Has agreed to the low price of \$5,000 for the Duck Creek farm.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from DR. H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 29, 1847.

The applicant for the Duck Creek farm refuses Nicholas' demand for \$5,500. Would like this "worthy, pushing young man" to have it since he would live on the property and improve it, but does not insist if his brother believes a better sale can be made. Asks if . . . Janvier might buy, and why "the notice to . . . Carrow to quit" was not sent.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Phoenixville, Penna.], from J[AMES] P. WILD, Farmers Bank, Dover, Dec. 4, 1847.

Knows of no prospective buyer for Mr. Ridgely's stock in the Farmers Bank but will inquire, and notify him of any opportunity to sell.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24.9cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from S. A. [MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 6, 1847.

Discusses possible sale of "Fox Hall" to the duPonts and its alternative, renting the Dover house, which she prefers to occupy with her own parents. Hints at friction with Ann [duPont]. Alludes to her own spiritual state: "Willy's" [Johnson] prospective confirmation and visit to Dover; her loneliness since her husband's death; a legacy to Eugene [Ridgely] from his mother; and the recent illness of Nicholas' son. Reproves him for not visiting Aunt [Mary] Morris.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, Dec. 8, 1847.

Tells of preaching at various Philadelphia churches. Is encouraged by his slowly growing practice. Advised [his brother] Edwin [Tilden] to teach or to work in a drug-store until he can finance "the two courses of lectures required of every [medical] student before graduation." Refers to a cradle bought for Nicholas, to a successfully dyed suit, and to the health of his own family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I.] duPONT, Wilmington, Dec. 9, 1847.

Will be delighted to have the family record for her Bible in Nicholas' hand, but begs him to copy it at his leisure. Discusses the sale of the Draper and Duck Creek farms. Ned [Ridgely] is making excellent progress, is said to have the finest mind for "mathematical reasoning" at college, and may head his class. Summarizes one of Bishop [Alfred] Lee's sermons. Is deeply hurt by Eugene's [Ridgely] attitude toward her. Refers to [Dr.] Henry's [Ridgely] recent letter, and to the task of preparing the [duPont] family New Year's gifts.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna.], from A[NN], MRS. CHARLES I.] duPONT, [Wilmington], Dec. 10, 1847.

Transmits advice from her husband about railroad bonds and bank securities. Railroad bonds, though low, are scarce because few wish to sell at a loss due to "the financial crisis in

England". "Money is worth from $\frac{1}{2}$ to two percent per month and the banks now will not discount". Mentions . . . Batemen and [James P.] Wild.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from DR. H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. [Dec.] 14, 1847.

Outlines the contract with Mr. [John M.] Voshell for the Duck Creek farm. Discusses business relating to Nicholas' share in his father's estate. Thinks railroad bonds a sound investment; bank stock sells only at a sacrifice. Regrets having been unable to visit Phoenixville during a recent hurried trip to Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 26.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 22, 1847.

[John M.] Voshell's bond has been accepted as a deposit to guarantee the sale. Insists that Nicholas be present early in January to settle the matter, for his own interests demand it, his absence might upset the sale, and he himself dislikes making important decisions for the whole family without full consultation. Speaks of certain charges against their father's personal estate, and of advances made to [Mrs. Henry M. Ridgely] by the family.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 28, 1847.

Urges his brother to come to Dover for the sale [of the Duck Creek farm]. There is much to discuss. In addition, it will be difficult to transmit to Nicholas his share of the proceeds "in the present tight condition of the Banks & their mutual fear & distrust of each other".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MR. and MRS. [NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Phoenixville, Penna.], from J. E. WHITAKER, [n. p.], Dec. 29, 1847.

Invites the Ridgely household to spend the following day. Will send the carriage for them at the hour they name.

A. L. S. 1 p. 9.5cm. x 14cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna.], from CHARLES . DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], Dec. 31, 1847.

Has purchased a W[ilmington]n R[ail] R[oad] bond for Nicholas at \$79.00. Wishes he could dispose at once of his Farmers Bank stock for he now receives " $7\frac{1}{2}$ percent on the

[railroad] investment" with twenty percent increase in capital at maturity. Acknowledges the family record recently sent Ann [duPont].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ph[o]enixville, Penna., from A. LARDNER & CO., Philad[elphia], Jan. 6, 1848.

Encloses certificate No. 851 for \$100 Wilmington R[ai]l R[oa]d Loan, as ordered by "Messrs. C. I. duPont & Co."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 9, 1847 [1848].

States the terms of the Duck Creek farm sale to [John M.] Voshell for [\$5,000], the order in which the heirs are to be paid, and the incidental business still to be completed. The "Fox Hall" transaction with Mr. and Mrs. [Charles I.] duPont has been completed. Aunt [Mary B. Ridgely] will purchase Nicholas' bank stock if he decides to sell. Will not advise him since he himself has a possible personal interest. Hopes the disposal of their father's real estate proves satisfactory, for the business has been a great worry to him. Mentions "Mr. . . . Raybold opposite Washington Square."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21cm. x 26.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, c/o F. A. RAYBOLD, Esq., opposite Washington Square, Philadelphia, from ANN, [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], Jan. [9], 1848.

Is delighted with the family record. Wishes he could have been present at the sales of the Duck Creek farm and "Fox Hall", and have served as joint executor with Henry [Ridgely]. Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely will purchase his Farmers Bank stock at \$45.00, which will still give him a good profit. Worries because Mr. duPont, who requires only piety to make him "almost perfect" invests so heavily in "Barrenplains" for her sake. Suggests that a fuller account of their father's patience during his final illness and his inspiring last day of life be inserted in the family record. Mentions Nicholas' family and the [Alexander] Johnsons. Deplores having had to travel on Sunday.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 18, 1848.

Believes \$720 he has deposited to his brother's account for sale of Farmers Bank stock will prove a good bargain under present business conditions. Explains the terms of the contract for sale of the Duck Creek property, and two title disputes over portions of it. Has found additional assets of their father's estate which he hopes will cover all charges against it.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21cm. x 26.7cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from EUGENE RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 25, [18]48.

Summarizes the entries in the Records' office concerning "Linden" and the Draper farm. Mentions papers relating to their mother's estate, and Mrs. [John] Woodall's "many messages" to Nicholas. Asks him to draft a deed "from sister Ann [duPont] to myself" for her part of "Linden" . . . reverting to "her or her heirs in case I die without children".

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE", MRS. [ALEXANDER] JOHNSON, [near] Milford, Del., Jan. 25, 1848.

Finds "Mrs. Johnson" a far busier person than "Miss Ridgely" used to be. Is worried about Sister [Mrs. Charles I. duPont] who has been ill in Dover. "I love her as dearly as if she were my Mother, she seemed to take Mother's place entirely." Ned [Ridgely] stands high in his college classes and looks well. "Dover is worse for gossip news than it ever was; . . . I don't believe you ever saw such a place." Gossip is now current even in their father's house, with his restraining influence gone. The Comegys family are living with Mrs. [Sally Ann] Ridgely.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.5cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna.], from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Jan. 26, 1848.

Discusses the settlement of their father's and their uncle's estates. Advises him about his investments. Refers at length to their father's [Henry Ridgely] patience and gentleness in his tedious illness, his ability to recall "the literary treasures" which filled his mind even after he had grown childish about current matters, and his inspiring final hours.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. [NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Phoenixville, Penna.], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], Jan. 29, 1848.

Has completed the purchase of W[ilmington] R[ail] R[oad] bonds for his brother-in-law. Thinks the investment wise. Advises holding the Draper farm for \$5,000.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 31, 1848.

Is puzzled by an apparent deficiency in their father's account with their Uncle [Nicholas] Ridgely's estate. Asks his brother's suggestions and wishes him to come to Dover to assist in preparing the account for the Register [of Wills].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 26cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] W. P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, Feb. 2, 1848.

Tells of successful "protracted" meetings and other church matters. Refers to a financial transaction. Practice is dull but he is making expenses.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, [Penna.], from A. LARDNER COMPANY, Philad[elphia], Feb. 2, 1848.

Sends a certificate for bonds purchased in Mr. Ridgely's name by Charles I. duPont.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 24.5cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna.], from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], Feb. 3, 1848.

Sends the draught of a letter to Henry [Ridgely] making suggestions for balancing the estates of Chancellor Nicholas and Henry M. Ridgely. In it she discusses their father's meticulous habits in regard to accounts of others, speaks of the Chancellor's fatherly kindness to his younger half-brother and reminds Henry as sole heir to their uncle's large estate he must avoid all appearance of favoring it at the expense of the three heirs to their own father's personal estate. Ask Nichols' opinion about improving the Draper farm for a few years before offering it for sale.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from DAN[IE]L M. BATES, Dover, Feb. 3, 1848.

Offers legal advice about property held jointly by the Ridgely heirs under a deed of settlement from their father. Hopes to discuss it more fully during his friend's expected visit to Dover.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna.], from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 7, 1848.

Appreciates his helpful suggestions for compiling a correct statement of their father's account as administrator [of Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely]. Gives additional business detail. A recent letter from Ann [duPont] has hurt and angered him, but he will "not entertain my present feelings long".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.7cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Phoenixville, Penna.], from REV. L. SCOTT, Philadelphia, Feb. 10, 1848.

Tentatively accepts an invitation to assist Mr. Ridgely during his forthcoming Q[uarternly] M[eeting].

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 12.6cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna.], from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, Feb.] 14, [1848].

Is distressed that her letter to Henry [Ridgely] was so worded that Nicholas thinks it has hurt him, for no criticism was intended. She and Mr. duPont believe Nicholas, as the heir with the largest interest, should manage the Draper farm business. They suggest that it be rented to a tenant from [New Castle] County for \$300 yearly, plus interest on \$100 to be invested in fertilizers. Is interested in religion but feels too unsure of herself to join a church. "The Rev. Mr. Ridgely" is eager to meet Nicholas.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON], near Milford, Del., Feb. 16, 1848.

"We have the telegraph through the state now." It has caused much excitement and provoked much amusing comment. Is considering confirmation but has not yet discussed it with the Bishop. The nine-mile trip to Milford prevents her from attending church in the winter. Greatly misses the daily mail; her husband sometimes goes to town to collect it but once a week. Apologizes for her illegible penmanship, for she never writes well by lamp light. Mentions the death of "old Mrs. Stevens" of Dover, a letter from Virginia [Mrs. Henry Ridgely], "the Rev. Mr. . . . Ridgely", and Mr. [Charles I.] duPont's purchase of "Angelica Reed's sawmill".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [DR.] HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 16, 1848.

Gives a further report of progress on his father's estate. May leave his account with their Uncle's [Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely] estate in Philadelphia with Hunn Jenkins for his brother's examination, for it is too voluminous to copy. Discusses certain charges he fears must be made against the personal estate. Comments on "the widow's" unexpected fairness in most matters concerned in the settlement.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25.3cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Phoenixville, Penna.], from REV. L. SCOTT, Phila[delphia], Feb. 17, 1848.

A previously overlooked appointment will prevent him from assisting Mr. Ridgely before Friday.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from NED, [EDWARD RIDGELY], St. Mary's College, [Wilmington], Feb. 22, 1848.

Takes the opportunity of the Washington's Birthday holiday to describe the St. Mary's College routine. The boys rise at 5:30 A. M., stand inspection for cleanliness before reporting to the study room at 6:00 A. M., breakfast at 7:30, attend classes from 8:00 and 12:00, study again from 2:00 P. M. until 7:00 P. M. with a half-hour recess; dine, and retire at 8:30. Teachers are constantly in attendance, and share the boys' large dormitory. Never "heard so few oaths or saw so little mischief" among so many boys. Goes every Saturday to the duPonts.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], Feb. 24, 1848.

Commends Nicholas' prudence in investing small sums as he obtains them; larger amounts cannot always be placed as well. The Draper farm should be offered at \$5,000 to its tenant of long standing, but if he does not buy will gladly assume management of the property. Is convinced that "land is looking up in Kent & will continue to do so . . . my doings . . . have . . . wakened up attention to lands there, . . . the running of the S[team] Boat to Donna's Landing facilitating communication so much. . . . The more I see of Kent the more I am convinced that a new order of things ought to take place in regard to the renting of farms, etc.; I will introduce new men rather than try to reform the old". The Ridgely heirs should therefore hold the Draper farm for "no less than \$5000" and demand "a much better" rent than at present. Repeats the terms suggested in his wife's letter [February 14]. Is pleased with the improvements at "Barren plain" under his English farmer, as well as with the prospects for "Fox Hall" and his new purchase of "the Reed mill property".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 29, 1848.

Does not yet feel at home in the newly renovated [Methodist] church. Mentions the minister, [Henry] Sutton and his wife, "Willy" [Johnson] and Mary Bateman. Gives news of Mrs. [Eliza] Woodall, Cornelia Woodall, "old Dick Wallace", Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely and Aunt [Mary] Morris. Will miss Eugene [Ridgely], who has always been kindly and considerate, when he starts working his own farm "this week".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 25.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, . . . Penna., from A. LARDNER & COMPANY, Philad[elphia], March 2, 1848.

Sends cert[ificate] No. 890 for "\$100 Wilmington R[ai]l R[oa]d 6% Loan".

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, March 6, 1848.

Has arranged for the loan of a horse and carriage for Nicholas to drive to Conference. He should allow two days for the trip to Easton [Maryland] from Dover. Hopes he will stay with her. Eugene [Ridgely] has moved to "Linden", leaving "old Aunt [Mammy] Margaret" and herself the last of the family who lived in the house but a year ago. Mentions her parents.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 23.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from [REV.] JAMES NICOLS, near Hillsborough, Eastern S[hore], Md., March 8, 1848.

A recurrence of his "grievous malady" [insanity] made him "an inmate of the Hospital near Baltimore" for several months and explains his long silence. Hopes to visit Conference briefly to renew old friendships. Contrasts the early prospects and present position of himself and Bishop [Edmund S.] Janes, classmates before the Conference in 1832. Writes of his family, and of his despair at his disability.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 23.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from DR. W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Philadelphia, March 10, 1848.

Though he is a dilatory correspondent insists that his patients are "bled, blistered or puked" very promptly indeed. "Little Kate . . ." is dead, "no doubt a victim to the invincible ignorance and prejudice in favor of Homoeopathy" [sic]. Finds Philadelphia preachers uncooperative and even jealous. Tells of other church matters. Mentions "Bro. Coombe", the Edwards family, and Sarah [Tilden].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ph[o]enixville, Penna., from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., March 11, 1848.

Discusses plans for a visit from Nicholas and his family, his personal problems, and the affairs of churches in Elkton and New Castle. Fears the boats to New Castle will not be running

by March 24. Mentions [Dr.] James [Couper], Ann [duPont], Sarah [Tilden], and Mary and Henry [M. Ridgely, son of Nicholas].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near] Wilmington, March 12, 1848.

Was bled for her recent illness. Is delighted with the family record now bound into her Bible. A Mr. Ridgely from Maryland also wishes to copy it. Is worried about Harry [Ridgely]. Her misunderstanding with [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] is now adjusted, to her great relief. Suggests asking Mr. [Alexander] Johnson to manage the Draper farm.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from W. H. ALLEN, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., April 26, 1848.

"I believe that no institution in the country affords greater facilities and encouragement to young men of limited means than this college." Expenses exclusive of clothing are about \$135.00 per year; "\$200 will support a student comfortably". Sends a catalogue for the information of Mr. Ridgely's brother-in-law, suggesting that he enroll promptly if he plans to come. His funds may be conveniently invested in Dickinson College bonds during his course.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., 5th door above Tenth St., Philadelphia, from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Philadelphia, April 29, 1848.

Is delighted to hear he has such a satisfactory house, with the added attraction of a yard for his son. Hopes to visit him there. Wishes Nicholas to select a carpet suitable for a parsonage as a gift from her. Discusses family finances and Ned's [Edward Ridgely] needs.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from EDWARD RIDGELY and ANN, [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], May 6, 1848.

Edward is delighted that his brother is now stationed in Philadelphia, "as a trip from Dover to the city is nothing now since a boat runs to Dona Landing". Invites him to "the exhibition" to be held soon at which he will make his first speech. Is still "as busy as ever at Mr. [Patrick] Reillie's from six in the morning till seven at night with about two hours intermission". Hopes to spend Christmas vacation with Nicholas.

[Mrs. Henry M. Ridgely] is soliciting funds toward the construction of a new Methodist church in Dover. Regrets that the old one was so recently repaired.

Ann [duPont] alludes to the fatigue of a shopping trip in the city. "Louviere" is especially lovely in the spring. Hopes Mary [Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely] and Harry [Ridgely] will soon come for a two-month visit. Sends Nicholas a gift of Mexican beans, to be "boiled a great while with a piece of bacon" or served with butter.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, May 12, 1848.

Comments on Dover's "new preachers", Mr. [James] Allen and Mr. [E. G.] Asay. Tells of the campaign for funds for a new [Methodist] church, essential because the Baptists intend building. Asks [her stepson's] assistance. Refers to members of the Ridgely family, Mr. and Mrs. Sutton [Henry Sutton], her sister [in-law] Margaret [Comegys], Mary Bateman, and to the marriage of Miss . . . Stevens and Mr. . . . Patten.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from W[ILLIAM] DELAHAY, Denton, [Md.], May 26, 1848.

Regrets missing him at Conference time, and the impossibility of visiting Philadelphia soon. Alludes to "the children" and to the fact that the term of a troublesome office he holds will soon expire. Gives news of mutual friends.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from L. R. BURDEN, Phoenixville, [Penna.], May 29, 1848.

A former parishioner writes of church affairs at Phoenixville, of her dissatisfaction with the current minister, and of her inability to achieve the spiritual state she longs for. Hopes the Ridgelys can soon visit her.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Pastor of Twelfth St. Methodist E[piscopal] Church, Philadelphia, from J. H. McFARLAND, Williamsburg, Penna., June 13, [18]48.

Asks Mr. Ridgely to determine the fitness of his parishioner Robert Holt for the ministry and his willingness to go out on a circuit with only "a single man's claim" though he has a child. Vacancies are hard to fill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from A[NN] R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] duPONT, Wilmington, [c. June 18], 1848.

Asks Nicholas to supervise the management of the Draper farm. Suggests using part of its rent to improve it. "Willie" [Johnson] is visiting; invites his family. Adds a postscript telling of the burning of Mr. [Charles I.] duPont's uninsured "lower factory". The \$20,000 loss, though it will not bankrupt him, will force strict economy. Deplores the "expenses in his Kent property".

A. L. [S. implied] 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from "WILLIE", [MRS. ALEXANDER] JOHNSON, "Louviers", [near] Wilmington, June 27, 1848.

Tells of her infant son Henry [Johnson], a "monstrous" child. Was alarmed by his recent attack of croup. Enjoyed a week in Dover. [Eu]gene [Ridgely] is "nicely fixed up at Linden". Mentions others of the family. Orders "12½ ct. edging" from "Worneck's store".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Phil[adelphia, Penna.], from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I.] duPONT, ["Louviers", Del.], July . . ., 1848.

Discusses the Draper farm. Hopes the epidemic of measles will soon end, for she dreads Harry [Ridgely] being exposed to it during his second summer, when the disease is dangerous. Mrs. . . . Frame is dying, leaving a young family orphaned. Lavinia Cowgill of Dover died of erysipelas while spending the summer at Gettysburg [Pennsylvania]. "Willy's" [Johnson] baby resembles "the infant [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] lost". Expresses great affection for her sister.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

WILLIAMINA [MRS. ALEXANDER] JOHNSON, c/o CHARLES I. duPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, July 4, 1848.

Extends a pressing invitation to visit, bringing little Harry [Henry R. Johnson]. Just heard of the death of John Fisher and the illness of Charles Clayton. Is much out of touch with Delaware affairs. Mentions household matters, a visit from Mrs. [James] Couper, proposed sale of one of the Ridgely farms, and his own small son [Henry M. Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from MARY B. COUPER, New Castle, [Del.], July 6, 1848.

Asks Nicholas to inquire into the references of a Mary W. Weir who seems so "superior to her station" there may be some objection to her. If there is none, wishes an enclosed offer of a maid's place in the Couper home delivered. [Enclosure mentions the steamboat *Napoleon*, leaving Arch Street at 7:30 A. M. for New Castle, Delaware].

A. L. S. 1+1 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, New Castle, [Del.], July 14, 1848.

Will be delighted to entertain the Ridgelys whenever they can come, but warns they may have to wait on themselves as "we all have to do this summer". Discusses servant problems, complaining that "housekeepers are now the slaves of those they employ". If Mary Weir is still available wishes to engage her. Suggests she come to New Castle aboard the *Kent* on Tuesday or *Napoleon* on Wednesday.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden [St.], Philadelphia, from [REV.] JAMES NICOLS, near Hillsborough, Md., July 14, 1848.

Has been ill again. Plans to accompany his brother John [Nicols] to Pittsburgh soon, and to see the Ridgely family while in Philadelphia. His mother-in-law Mrs. . . . Casson has "dropsy in the chest". Is discouraged by his own poor health. Speaks of his wife and daughter Maggie [Margaret Nicols].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Phila[delphia], from REV. DAVID SHIELDS, West Chester, Penna., July 17, 1848.

Writes bitterly of Conference action which has burdened Mr. Ridgely's congregation, and by implication many others, with crushing debts for large buildings. Thinks the course immoral and destructive of religion. Deplores the "trifling" attitude of too many of their ministers, and criticises "Bro. J. T. Cooper . . . P. E. of the South Phil[adelphia] district".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 31cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from EUGENE RIDGELY, Dover, July 22, 1848.

Reports on the crops at the Draper farm, and on other matters concerning it. Mentions the Mill Creek Fire Insurance Company. Asks his brother to draw up certain papers trans-

ferring their sister's share of "Linden" to him. Tells of the deaths of Mrs. . . . Wise, and of Jonathan Jenkins who left about \$70,000 to his widow and daughter.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., above 10th, Philadelphia], from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I.] duPONT, [Dover, c. Aug. 2], 1848.

His family have arrived safely. Hopes he can join them. Asks his opinion about terms for selling or renting the Draper farm to . . . Enos. Is writing "with a miserable steel pen".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Ogden [St.], Philadelphia, from MISS L. R. BURDEN, Phoenixville, Penna., Aug. 11, 1848.

Suggests "a girl" she thinks will suit the Ridgelys. Misses them greatly. The burning of the nail factory will force many Phoenixville residents to move because they have no other trade than "nailers". Discusses church affairs.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from EUGENE RIDGELY, [Dover], Aug. 17, 1848.

Discusses the Draper farm. [Avery] Draper does not wish to purchase, and will move to his own land. Lists several applicants for the property. Speculates on the value of Jonathan Jenkins' estate, much of which will come to [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely]. The fruit crop is abundant.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia], from D[AN-IEL] M. BATES, Dover, Aug. 22, 1848.

Acknowledges a request for legal advice. Will reply as soon as he can study the matter.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 27cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Ogden [St.], Philadelphia, from MRS. P. O. WALTERS, Phoenixville, Penna., Aug. 31, 1848.

Sends warm greetings to her former pastor and his wife.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25.3cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia], from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 5, 1848.

Discusses debts still owed by and to their father's estate. Makes suggestions about the Draper farm. Is relieved that Harry [Henry M. Ridgely] has survived his second summer. Alludes to the loss of his own son, the one bitter cross of an otherwise for-

fortunate life, and to the recent birth of a daughter [Ruthanna Ridgely]. Speaks of Virginia [Ridgely] and of [his late father-in-law] Jonathan Jenkins.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, from W[ILLIAM] DELAHAY, Denton, Md., Sept. 6, 1848.

Asks advice about buying a farm which has been offered at an unusual bargain. Is tired of "public life." Refers to mutual friends in Maryland.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Phil[adelphia], from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers"], Del., Sept. 6, 1848.

Had so pleasant a visit from their stepmother she was sorry to see her leave. Mr. Charles I. duPont's mill "is shut down for want of water [power], and the season is passing when he can have a market for his goods". Copies a note from him concerning the Draper farm. Is ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from D[ANIEL] M. BATES, Dover, Sept. 8, 1848.

In response to Nicholas' request, discusses the proper form of a deed for church property, a matter controlled by local law. Approves the Delaware statute enabling religious societies to incorporate by simple registration. Suggests that the right of alienation, under safeguards, should be granted church trustees.

A. L. S. 1+4 pp. 21cm. x 27cm; 19.5cm. x 31cm. [Enclosure]

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from ANN, MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [near], Wilmington, Sept. 11, 1848.

Her husband has not found a buyer for the Draper farm. Advises renting to a local tenant. Confides that the man now suggested for their agent has a poor reputation.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Phil[adelphia], from A[NN], [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, ["Louviers", Del.], Sept. 21, 1848.

Hopes to visit him as soon as her peaches are preserved, and to entertain Mary and Harry [Ridgely] in October. Gives directions for a mattress of "flocks, . . . short colored wool cut from the clothe", she expects to help her sister-in-law make. Ordered thirty-five pounds of the material at 6½ cents per pound. Appreciates Nicholas' drawing book but fears sending it "deprived you of a pleasure". Thinks J. P. Comegys is mistaken in

his claim the widow's share of their father's estate is exempt from liability and wants J. M. Clayton consulted. Deplores the great expense of ["Barren Plains"] and "Fox Hall." Is discouraged about the Draper property.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from "WILLIE" MRS. [ALEXANDER] JOHNSON, [near] Milford, Del., Sept. [25], 1848.

Describes her own infant Harry [Henry P. Johnson] sitting "perfectly quiet" watching his father play the violin while "Phil, the little darkie baby", was "all motion . . . as near dancing as he could be". Tells of the deaths of Mrs. [Cornelius P.] Comegys and her sister. Never saw a fatter baby than Henry's [Ruthanna Ridgely] but [she] cries constantly at night just as "Sonny" [Jonathan Ridgely] did. Pities Mrs. [Jonathan] Jenkins' loneliness. Refers to Nicholas' family, Mary Ann [Johnson], Rev. Mr. [George] Lacey and Dr. . . . Mitchell.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY, Philadelphia], from MRS. S[ALLY] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 2, 1848.

Appreciates Nicholas' letter of sympathy following her mother's [Ruhamah (Marim) Comegys] death. Gives a detailed account of her final illness. Speaks of her brothers John, Joseph and Benjamin [Comegys], Maria . . . , Dr. . . . Chatham and Dr. [William] Morris. Tells of an aunt's death. Mentions that her parents enjoyed almost forty-five years of happy marriage.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from DR. H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 11, 1848.

Sends books and a gift of sweet and Irish potatoes by the *Zephyr*. States a small account between them. Mentions Aunt [Mary B.] R[idgely], Mr. . . . Buck, Mr. . . . duPont and Virginia [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., [Philadelphia], from A[NN], [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [near Wilmington], Oct. 16, 1848.

Expresses her affection for Nicholas and Mary [Ridgely], wishing "the old home" might be theirs. Had difficulty in finding a satisfactory servant on short notice. Discusses gifts for Amie [duPont] and Harry [Ridgely], errands, and her own ill health.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Phila[delphia], from [REV.] DAVID SHIELDS, West Chester, Penna., Oct. 18, 1848.

Tells of his own recent return from Pennington, New Jersey and a pleasant visit of inspection to a school. Deplores the jealousy evident among many ministers in the vicinity. Discusses prospects of a revival, the plans of his own family, and a clergyman so eager for money he has left his post to enter the coal business. Mentions Brothers [James] Cunningham, Lucian Matlack and [John] Lednum.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 31cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 10, 1848.

Thinks "Willy's" little son [Henry R. Johnson] resembles his grandfather [Henry M. Ridgely], and that "Willy" herself has "lost that boyancy of spirit which characterized her; she is quite matronly". Gossips about a party given for Dr. [Gove] Saulsbury and his bride, remarking "I fear we are getting to[o] democratic for the good of society". Mr. . . . Fisher is preparing to move to Baltimore. Is surprised that [Zachary] Taylor appears to have succeeded [James K.] Polk as President. The "boiler" is satisfactory. Mentions her father [C. P. Comegys], members of the Ridgely family, Aunt [Mrs. William] Morris and her daughters, Mrs. D. M. Bates, Mrs. Isaac Crouch, and Benjamin [B. Comegys], with his wife, child, and sister-in-law.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from ANN, [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [near Wilmington], Nov. 18, 1848.

"Should my life be spared" [in childbirth] hopes for a visit from Mary and Harry [Ridgely]. Sends gifts for each. Appreciates *Orlando Furioso*. Regrets mutual hurt feelings between Eugene and [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely]. Worries about her husband's "Fox Hall" and Reed mill investments though he is still optimistic about them. Hopes Nicholas' progress in Greek is not at the expense of his vision. Mentions Sarah Tilden, Mr. . . . Nicolson, [Daniel M.] Bates, and Mrs. . . . Reed, a deed and lease. Because of the boy's incorrigibility, refuses to ask her husband to place George Henry [Ridgely]. Naval apprenticeships are no longer open. Suggests that Eugene might "bind him to some strict farmer".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.8cm. x 25cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY, Philadelphia], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], Nov. 23, 1848.

Announces the birth of a healthy son on Sunday [November 19]. Is greatly pleased about the baby, "but the most important [thing] is that Ann is doing well & all her forebodings . . . proved groundless". They consider naming the child Ridgely duPont and plan, after suitable education, to "locate him at 'Fox Hall'."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, from W[IL-LIA]M DELAHAY, Denton, Md., Dec. 2, 1848.

Has purchased a farm. Gives further detail about the transaction and about his plans. Mentions Mrs. . . . Massey, Mary [Ridgely], and Sarah, William and Edwin [Tilden], Emma . . . and Josephine [Delahay].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.6cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Ogden St., Phila[delphia], from H. R. CALLOWAY, Phoenixville, Penna., Dec. 4, 1848.

Asks his colleague to assist with a "protracted meeting . . . this week if possible", and to make arrangements with "Bro. [Robert] Gerry" to accompany him.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from [REV.] DAVID SHIELDS, West Chester, Penna., Dec. 11, 1848.

Prizes his letters, which inspire profitable self-examination. Refers to "your Preachers' meeting", his own preference for next year's appointment and his clerical activities. Mentions Brothers [John] Ruth and . . . Barnes, [Mary] Bateman and Mrs. [David] S[hields].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], from A. CAMPERN, Tr[easurer] P W & B R R Co. [Philadelphia] Jan. 3, [18]49.

Explains how interest may be collected by draft, enclosing the proper form.

A. N. S. 1+1 pp. 12.8cm. x 20cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near] Wilmington, Jan. 4, 1849.

Is thankful he has survived his critical illness. Begs him to abandon all thought of "preaching this winter". Reminds him their sister [Elizabeth Ridgely] died of "consumption brought on by a cold she took after the measles". Friends plan to seek the office of Inspector of the Port or postmaster at New Castle for

him until he recovers his strength. Only danger to her own "delicate infant" [Henry R. duPont] kept her away during his illness. His offer to take "that orphan boy [Charles Ridgely] of our poor brother's" though circumstances absolve him from responsibility, shows "the noblest Christian spirit". Begs him to make no decision before he recovers. Will provide the child's clothes if he comes. Refers to business matters. Henry [Ridgely] has been made President of the Farmers Bank at Dover. Mentions Ned [Ridgely], "young Mr. Tilden", Miss Sarah Tilden, "the two Claytons", Judge Milligan, Judge [Willard] Hall, Mr. . . . Rodgers, Mr. . . . Riddel and Mrs. [James] Couper.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from [MRS.] E[LIZABETH] C. RIDGELY, Georgetown, Del., Jan. 7, 1849.

Appreciates the offer her brother[in-law] has made her younger son, Charles [Ridgely], but declines it because she cannot part with the child who is adequately provided for in Georgetown. She does, however, worry about George [Henry Ridgely] for whom Eugene [Ridgely] has proposed a naval apprenticeship. Suggests that the ten-year-old boy could be useful to his uncle if he would take him until he was fifteen, and then have him entered at W[est] Point. Mentions a married daughter and son John [Brinckle?].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 24.3cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from L. R. BURDEN, Phoenixville, [Penna.], Jan. 10, 1849.

Is relieved to learn of Mr. Ridgely's partial recovery. Urges him not to attempt preaching until others judge him able. Tells of "Harriett" and of church activities.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 12, 1849.

Is delighted at Nicholas' recovery, of which she once despaired. Expresses affection and sympathy for his wife. Has been ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, and [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], "Louviers", [Del.], Jan. 16, 1849.

Mr. duPont reports the railroad bonds are a secure investment. Gives additional financial advice. Mrs. duPont continues a discussion of which heirs are liable for the remaining debts of their father's estate. Begs him not to take [George Henry

Ridgely] until he recovers, nor at all without a preliminary visit. West Point is financially and scholastically out of the question for the unschooled, undisciplined child. Speaks of her own children and of financial matters.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from WILLARD HALL, Wilmington, Jan. 18, 1849.

Since ordination is no bar to holding Federal office Mr. Ridgely is eligible to the one he seeks. Prospects for appointment, however, are not encouraging though Mr. [Charles I.] duPont's support will be valuable and he himself will give any help he can.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 26.4cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Phila[delphia], from [REV.] DAVID SHIELDS, West Chester, Penna., Jan. 22, 1849.

Is thankful his friend's life has been spared. Wishes West Chester were a suitable spot for him to be stationed. Is almost ready to bring before Conference the problem of preachers who recklessly contract building debts which their successors must struggle to pay.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, from N. YOUNG, New Castle, Del., Jan. 23, 1849.

Does not know that he will be the Collector, but the rumor that he may be has brought a flood of applications "and more for the office of Inspector at New Castle than for any other". The large number of candidates "who have been prominent actors in the Whig party for many years" makes appointment of an outsider very improbable. Assures Mr. Ridgely of his personal respect and admiration.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia], from GENE [EUGENE RIDGELY], Dover, Feb. 2, [18]49.

Though the Duck Creek payment now due is by agreement his, asks his brother to accept it as later collection of his own share will suit him better.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., c. Feb.] 3, 1849.

Transmits a suggestion that Nicholas occupy vacant rooms at "Linden" instead of renting in Dover. Is sanguine about his chances of appointment to the Federal office he seeks in New

Castle. Mr. [Charles I.] duPont will press his application. Urges him to take great care of his health. Censures their stepmother's refusal to share liability for the debts of their father's estate. Alludes to [Henry R. duPont], [Dr.] Henry and Eugene [Ridgely], John M. Clayton, [John W.] Houston, [Presley] Spruance, and Abbot Lanrew who may become Secretary of the Treasury. Asks about a baby jumper and some potato bags.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 13, 1849.

Is sorry, but not surprised that Nicholas must give up preaching for a time. Refers to a proposal that he share ["Linden"] with Gene [Eugene Ridgely] since no house in Dover is available. Application for the district school should be made promptly. D[aniel] Bates suggests a "select school" instead and thinks one could be assembled. Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely is helpless from a paralytic attack. Fears she will never recover.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from [REV.] JAMES NICOLS, Hillsboro, Md., Feb. 16, 1849.

Though greatly disappointed at not seeing his friend last summer, understands the circumstances. Invites him to visit during the spring. Was distressed to hear of his serious illness and of his decision to withdraw from the ministry for a year. His own health is better.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from GENE [EUGENE RIDGELY], "Linden", [Del.], Feb. 19, [1849].

Must withdraw his proposal in regard to the Duck Creek money because of "objections on the part of others". Would be delighted to offer him two large rooms, fuel, storage, garden space, and pasturage. Thinks a year at "Linden" would restore his health.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near] Milford, Del., Feb. 23, 1849.

Wishes he had chosen Dover in preference to New Castle to settle so she might have seen him more often. Hopes he and [Ann duPont] improve in health when spring comes. "Aunt" [Mrs. Mary B. Ridgely] is stronger but will probably remain helpless. Remarks on the many times she has had to move since Uncle

[Chancellor Nicholas] Ridgely's death. The Legislature was recently busy with divorce bills. Inquires about Nicholas' family and tells of her own son's [Henry Johnson] rapid growth.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from A[NN, MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. Feb. 25, 1849].

Describes the position of teller at the Farmers Bank, which Nicholas can probably obtain by immediate application. The salary is \$600.00 yearly. Refuses to wean [Henry R. duPont] to protect her own health for he has been frail from birth and she fears bottle feeding. Discusses family finances, Sally Ann Ridgely's lack of generosity, mending the baby jumper, the death of J[ohn] M. Clayton's son, and Mr. [John] Wales' appointment to the Senate. Mentions Nicholas' family, Edward, [Dr.] Henry and Eugene [Ridgely], Sarah Tilden and [Charles I.] duPont.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.5cm. x 22cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], from [MRS.] S. C[HALLENGER], New Castle, [Del.], Feb. 26, 1849.

Wishes him to suggest the amount of board to be paid, since he is more familiar with such matters than she is. There is no reason why they cannot remain with her a full year; [implies that Mrs. Ridgely is pregnant]. Expects them soon. Mentions her daughter Rebecca [Challenger], Mr. . . . Challenger, and Mr. and Mrs. [James] Couper [Jr.].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 26, 1849.

Does not need Mr. . . . Beatty this season but would like him for next, if available, as supervisor of his farm-hands. Much work by the day is to be had. He can offer \$10.00 per month and board for handling a drainage project he describes. Pays . . . Daws \$12.00 per month and board, "the best wages for the best hands". Refers to "the office at 'Linden', . . . a very comfortable little house". Supposes Mr. John M. Clayton's appointment improves Mr. . . . Brobson's chance for the Collectorship "& you will then come in for cakes & ale". Aunt [Mary] R[idgely] is improving but feeble. Mentions "Willy" [Johnson], Virginia and Mary [Ridgely], and "our little girl" [Ruthanna Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near] Wilmington, Feb. 28, [1849].

Describes a position "in the bank" which Nicholas can have if he does not obtain the inspectorship at New Castle. His chances

for the latter, a better post than the one at the bank, can be more accurately judged after General [Zachary] Taylor's whole cabinet is announced.

A. L. [S. implied] 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from [MRS.] ANN [duPONT, Wilmington], March 5, [1849].

Suggests recommendations that may help him secure the bank situation, for her husband is diffident about pressing the application of a close family connection. Has not abandoned hope of the Collector's post. Mentions David C. Wilson, Mr. . . . Torbit, Mr. . . . Hicks and his pastor, Judge [Willard] Hall, Mr. [John] Wales, Judge [S. M.] Harrington and Secretary of the Treasury [William M.] Meredith. Points out that this application, though "galling to pride" is necessary for the protection of his wife and child.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from [DR.] JA[ME]S COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., March 9, 1849.

Apologizes for a long delay in replying to a letter. Is convinced his friend cannot undertake any ministerial duties during the coming year, for the effects of [pneumonia] pass very slowly. Is delighted at the prospect of having the Ridgely family in New Castle. The appointment is still uncertain but he will make every effort to secure it for Mr. Ridgely.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from CHARLES I. duPONT, Wilmington, March 14, 1849.

Advises Nicholas of his appointment as teller in the [Farmers Bank of Delaware] at \$600.00 per year. Thinks board could be secured for himself, wife, child and nurse at \$400.00 per year in Wilmington. This position is less desirable than the inspectorship, but is certain; "the other is difficult to secure; politicians press their claims so urgently there is but little chance for modest merit".

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from [MRS. CHARLES I. duPONT, near] Wilmington, March 15, [1849].

Discusses efforts made to obtain the bank appointment for Nicholas. Suggests that he board at "old Mr. McDowell's, . . . the most genteel boarding house in Wilmington" kept by a worthy family "reduced" by losses in the Bank of the United States. Still urges him to press his application for the New Castle post. Alludes to a narrow escape little Harry [Ridgely] has had.

A. L. [S. implied] 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Phila[delphia], from [REV.] DAVID SHIELDS, West Chester, Penna., March 16, 1849.

Tells of a critical illness and a birth in his family. Regrets Mr. Ridgely's enforced retirement and is eager for a visit with him. Recounts church duties and activities.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 24.8cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from JOSEPH DARE, Phoenixville, [Penna.], March 16, 1849.

Writes at length of his religious convictions and the church activities in the neighborhood of Phoenixville.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from JA[ME]S COUPER, [JR.], M. D., New Castle, Del., March 17, 1849.

Certifies that the Rev. Nicholas Ridgely should not undertake ministerial duties in the ensuing conference year.

A. L. S. 1+3 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.8cm. [Enclosure]

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], from [MRS.] S. CHALLENGER, New Castle, [Del.], March 20, [1849].

Encloses with Dr. [James] Couper's certificate an expression of her disappointment that the Ridgely family will not be in New Castle for the coming year. Hopes he is not endangering his health in accepting so confining a position. Looks forward to frequent visits to Wilmington, so much easier a trip than to Philadelphia, though the fare is the same to both points. Mentions Rebecca [Challenger], Sarah [Tilden] and Mary [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm. [Enclosed with entry above]

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near] Wilmington, March 30, 1849.

Suggests he inquire Mrs. Adams' terms for board before taking a house. Plans for a visit from Mary [Ridgely] in August. Explains that she wishes a loan to Nicholas from her secured as she specifies to insure her children's interest in their father's Kent County properties against all contingencies. Begs him, as a favor, to take cod liver oil regularly, although Dr. [William] Tilden may ridicule it.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Ogden St., Philadelphia, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Farmers Bank, Wilmington, April 2, 1849.

Wishes him to start his bank duties at once leaving "young Mr. Tilden" to attend to the moving. Is pleased that he has obtained a good house at a moderate rent.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 24.3cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Wilmington], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., c. April 8, 1849].

Insists that he should bid on their father's [law] library for Ned [Edward Ridgely] even at the expense of other business. Explains a business proposal. Will be hurt if he neglects taking cod liver oil at her request, "it has so wonderfully restored Mrs. . . . Lamot who was apparently in the last stage of consumption". The whole duPont family is "in the deepest sorrow" at the death of Mr. [Irvine] Shubrick. Refers to her sister-in-law Julia [Mrs. Irvine Shubrick] and "poor Mary" [duPont].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, April 12, 1849.

Plans to plant 140 acres to corn, "and what I can brag of a little, every acre but ten will be manured". Will not purchase his brother's mortgage or anyone else's below its just value. Will help him obtain a bank loan to meet pressing needs. Thinks it wise for Ned [Ridgely] to bid on his father's library in person. Discusses the business of the Farmers Bank and Nicholas' new duties there. Refers to Aunt [Mary B.] R[idgely], Mrs. [Jonathan] Jenkins, "Willy" [Johnson], [Eu]gene [Ridgely] and Nicholas' family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near] Milford, Del., April 14, 1849.

Worries because Nicholas gains strength no faster. Wonders if he must stand while writing at the bank. Was shocked to hear of Mr. [Irvine] Shubrick's death. Hopes to visit their sister soon. Inquires for the family.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Phila[delphia], April 24, 1849.

Hopes he uses a stool at his work. Is glad he is so well satisfied. Has been alarmed over the condition of his own wife Mary [Tilden] but thinks she is improving.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., c. May 1849].

Offers advice about a letter from Mrs. [Sally Ann] Ridgely, pointing out the terms of the original agreement with her, and telling of business discussions which took place shortly after their father's death. Wishes to care for little Henry [Ridgely] while his mother is ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.3cm. x 25cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Wilmington], from GLADDING & HUGGINS, Phila[delphia], May 5, 1849.

Change of address [for a periodical] has been entered. Mentions the *Quarterly* and *E[c]lectic Commentary*.

L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, May 7, 1849.

Is willing for Ned [Edward Ridgely] to take his father's [law] library at the price suggested. Has never been approached on the subject of assuming a proportionate share of the estate's liabilities. States her brother's legal advice on the matter. Refers to plans for erecting a [Methodist] parsonage.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, May 8, 1849.

Explains standard bonding procedure for bank officials. Insists that Nicholas handle the postponed sale of their father's library, successful management of which will carry out the intent of his will in regard to all his surviving sons. Impresses upon his brother the importance of the matter and the fact that purchase at a nominal figure is ethical. Expresses intense dislike of several members of the Comegys family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Wilmington, from W[IL-LIA]M DELAHAY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., May 23, 1849.

Has not found a suitable servant for the Ridgelys, but thinks Catherine . . . may be persuaded to accept if satisfied on certain minor points. Speaks of Nicholas' health, his own, and his family's. Inquires about W. Reuben Stewart.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Wilmington, from W[IL-LIA]M P. TILDEN, Phila[delphia], May 23, [18]49.

Is pleased that Nicholas is convalescing. Cannot prescribe without seeing him. Will soon go to Bridesburg, [Pennsylvania] with his wife who is also recovering. "Bro. [David] Shields" is a favorite at the 8th Street Church.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, May 31, 1849.

Wishes Nicholas to come down by the *Zephyr* to bid on the library. Hopes his family can stay a few days. Will be glad when his own "ruffled" temper can settle down after the estate business is finished. Hopes to attend Ned's [Ridgely] commencement.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Farmers Bank, Wilmington, from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, June 1, 1849.

Asks if her acceptance of a proposal in regard to the law books was received. It would be "painful" to see the library sold.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Wilmington], from [REV.] JAMES A. MASSEY, Easton, Md., June 13, 1849.

Finds his new parsonage very satisfactory and the community friendly. There has just been a successful revival. Inquires about Nicholas' health and his situation in Wilmington.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from THOMAS W. TILDEN, Carlisle, [Penna.], June 29, 1849.

Tells of an opening which might interest "Brother Billy" [Dr. William Tilden] where the retirement of the only Methodist physician in town would insure him the practice of members of the church. Discusses his own plans for the summer, his financial problems, and the movements of mutual acquaintances. Wishes Harry [Ridgely], Bell [Isabel] and Ridgely [Tilden] could be sent up for a short visit.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.7cm. v 26.7cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [REV.] A[NDREW] MANSHIP, New Castle, [Del.], June 29, 1849.

Writes at Mrs. [S.] Challenger's request to explain that her visit must be delayed because deaths and illnesses in the families of several friends make claims she cannot deny.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.3cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., summer, 1849].

Invites Mary and Harry [Ridgely] to visit, for she anticipates no general danger from cholera brought to their estate by a just-arrived Irish family, several members of which have died. Was ill during her own stay in Elkton, [Maryland]. Deplores his bidding in the law library at such a loss to himself. Fears she cannot attend Ned's [Ridgely] commencement.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Wilmington, from JOHN RAUGHLEY, Dover, July 2, 1849.

Inquires about payment of taxes [on the Draper farm]. Recommends B. Sparkler's son as a tenant for next year. Prefers to have nothing to do with the guano but will attend to it if given notice in time. Has sent formal notice of intention to move in January.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 30.5cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Farmers Bank, Wilmington, from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, July 9, 1849.

Asks for information about the present condition of her late husband's estate. Says certain spoons Nicholas is using were a loan, not a gift as "Aunt Margaret" implied when she delivered them.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, July 24, 1849.

Suggests three good tenants for the [Draper] farm, giving the background of each. Asks for a prompt decision if he rents instead of selling.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from HUNN JENKINS, Phila[delphia], [July] 25, 1849.

Thinks the valuation of \$4000 placed on the [Draper] farm too high in relation to prices of more conveniently located and better improved properties in the vicinity. Though not anxious to buy might consider an offer revised in the light of figures he quotes.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from W[IL-
LIA]M DELAHAY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., July 26, 1849.

"The Colery" [cholera] has appeared in the neighborhood, with several fatalities already. Camp meeting will be held despite the epidemic. Complains of general apathy toward religion. Even clergymen are indifferent to the day of prayer proclaimed by the President [Millard Fillmore]. Tells of family matters.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from SARAH [TILDEN], Bridesburg, Penna., July 30, 1849.

Will return soon to be of whatever assistance she can to Mary [Ridgely]. There is much cholera in Philadelphia; the disease has also appeared [in Maryland]. Tells of Mrs. . . .

Coombs, "Bro. Keens", Catherine George, Mr. [William] Delahay and "the children", "Bro. . . . Dye", and [Dr. and Mrs.] William [Tilden].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.8 cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from JOHN RAUGHLEY, Dover, Aug. 1, 1849.

Notifies his landlord that he has deposited the \$100.00 rent currently due.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 31cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Farmers Bank, Wilmington, from [MRS.] S[ALLY] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 6, 1849.

Accepts her responsibility for a pro rata share of the debts against her husband's estate, stating her own understanding of the situation from the time of his death until the receipt of a recent letter from [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely]. Sends Mrs. . . . Boyer's bill of \$5.00 for making a quilt.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Wilmington], from [REV.] JAMES A. MASSEY, Easton, Md., Aug. 8, 1849.

Tells of two camp meetings in Dorchester County, [Maryland], of routine church activities, and of their mutual friends in [Maryland] and Philadelphia. Deplores his predecessor's displeasure at being shifted. Refers to a cholera epidemic which still spares their neighborhood.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Wilmington], from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Phila[delphia], Aug. 10, 1849.

Asks him for assistance in securing a loan of \$150 on the credit of his expanding practice. Is beginning to be called for "professional merit and not as heretofore through the influence of the church". The only type of invalid chair worth having ranges in cost from \$15.00 to \$30.00. Believes Mary [Ridgely] is suffering only from normal symptoms of pregnancy. Tells of his own family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.9cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], Aug. 12, [1849].

Considers the \$3000 offered for the farm low, but believes the heirs might be wise to accept it. Suggests certain precautions and plans for payment. Speaks of Mary [Ridgely] and the baby [Mary Tilden Ridgely, born August 11, 1849].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDG[E]LY, Wilmington, from ED-
W[AR]D LORD, Camden, Del., Aug. 16, [18]49.

Offers to purchase the farm at \$3500. Asks terms of pay-
ment and the date he can get possession.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [DR.]
W[ILLIA]M P. TILDEN, Phila[delphia], Aug. 16, 1849.

Is relieved to learn of his sister's safe delivery. Though he
is timid in dealing with a bank, will accept Nicholas' offer to
arrange a loan for him since he is confident of collecting \$150.00
from the \$1000 he expects to have on his books before the due
date. Needs a vehicle to attend to his increasing practice.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington], from [DR.]
H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 17, 1849.

Approves the sale of the farm to Hunn [Jenkins], despite
the low price, since he is "a safe purchaser" and will improve
the property. Tells of his own difficulties in managing farm
property through tenants. Alludes to Edward Lord's offer. Sug-
gests a method for handling the sale to facilitate Court procedure
and avoid conflict with Judge [Samuel] Harrington with whom
he is at present on cat-and-dog terms. Is confident their father's
intent has been carried out in the settlement of his affairs. Dis-
cusses the family's relations with his widow. Congratulates his
brother on the birth of his daughter. The Farmers Bank is doing
excellent business in Dover. Its Wilmington and New Castle
branches, once "managed shockingly, . . . are now in much better
hands".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from ALEX-
[ANDER] JOHNSON and "WILLIE" [JOHNSON], Mispillion
[Hundred], Del., Aug. 17, 1849.

Both agree to the proposed sale at \$3000 if \$250-\$500 addi-
tional cannot be obtained. "Willie" expresses her pleasure at the
birth of Mary Tilden [Ridgely], inquires about Mary [Ridgely]
and Henry [Ridgely], tells of her own small son Henry [John-
son], and alludes to occasional letters from Ned and Virginia
[Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from HUNN
JENKINS, Philad[elphi]a, [Aug.] 17, 1849.

Agrees to purchase the farm on the terms offered. Makes
arrangements for payment, search of title, security, and delivery
of papers. Mentions Edward, Nicholas and [Dr.] Henry [Ridge-
ly], [Alexander] Johnson and [Charles I.] duPont.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [DR.] W[ILLIA]M P. TILDEN, Phila[delphia], Aug. 19, [18]49.

Suggests the use of ice and of bread and milk poultices to relieve piles. Sends a note for discount, asking prompt delivery of the money since he has borrowed elsewhere for a few days in order to purchase a carriage. Tells of family affairs.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Wilmington, from H. CLIFT, Philadelphia, Aug. 20, 1849.

Is pleased to learn of her former pastor's improving health. Tells of accidents, illness and deaths among mutual friends. Cholera has been epidemic in the neighborhood. Discusses church affairs, activities of various members, and her personal religious experience. She and other friends hope to visit Mr. Ridgely, and send greetings to his family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 31cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Wilmington], from R. D. HICKS, Far[mer]'s Bank at Wilmington, Aug. 22, 1849.

Dr. [William P.] Tilden's note has been discounted. Hopes an improvement in Mr. Ridgely's conditions proves permanent.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 25cm.

REV. and MRS. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Wilmington, from SARAH A. SNYDER, Cedarville, [N. J.], Aug. 25, 1849.

A former parishioner asks for a letter of spiritual advice and support. Abigail . . . shows symptoms of consumption and Dr. . . . Elmer offers little encouragement. Misses the Ridgelys and other Philadelphia friends.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Shipley St. above 8th, Wilmington, from [MRS.] S. CHALLENGER, New Castle, [Del., c. September 1849].

Is concerned over the health of Mr. and Mrs. Ridgely and "poor Miss Sarah" [Tilden]. Offers the assistance of Rebecca [Challenger] and promises to come herself at any time.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

REV. MR. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Shipley St., Wilmington, from JAMES BERING, Phila[delphia], Sept. 4, 1849.

Grieves to learn "how very severely you have been afflicted". His own daughter has been ill of dysentery. Sends "3 of the best scotch Shirts and 2 silk; the price is \$2 each", though his regular charge is \$2.25.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 23cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from HUNN JENKINS, Philad[elphi]a, Sept. 8, 1849.

Supposes his illness has caused the delay in signing certain deeds. Hopes he continues to improve. Adds a note acknowledging a letter about the sale of [the Draper] farm.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [DR.] W[ILLIA]M P. TILDEN, Phila[delphia], Sept. 10, 1849.

Is glad that "things are putting on a brighter aspect at Wilmington". Thinks Mary [Ridgely] should go to New Castle. Promises to look after Sarah [Tilden] at once and take her away soon, but thinks it cruel to place her in the Asylum while there is hope for recovery.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from HUNN JENKINS, Phila[delphia], Sept. 14, 1849.

Assures him that he is doing everything in his power to close the sale being negotiated. Calls attention to a letter from his attorney, N. B. Smithers, on the reverse of which he writes, which gives an account of the steps he has taken to complete the transaction.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.6cm.

[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Wilmington], from HUNN JENKINS, Philad[elphi]a, [Sept.] 19, [18]49.

Fears his letter asking an appointment with Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely, "Ned" [Edward Ridgely] and Mr. and Mrs. [Charles I.] duPont has miscarried. Is anxious to have the deed signed. "Dr. [Isaac] Jump's wife was buried yesterday at Dover."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [DR.] W[ILLIA]M P. TILDEN, Phila[delphia], Sept. 21, 1849.

Expects to have the house ready for receiving Sarah [Tilden] by tomorrow. A very troublesome moving and his son's illness from "catarrhal remittent fever" have delayed arrangements.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [REV.] JAMES A MASSEY, Easton, Md., Sept. 22, 1849.

Having heard a report of his death was delighted to learn of his convalescence, and also that Sarah [Tilden] had recovered her reason. Speaks of his own family and of church activities.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 1, 1849.

Will be glad to endorse his note and will try to secure the loan for him in Dover, but the Bank's policy of late has been to make only sixty to ninety day loans. Discusses its general business activities. Looks forward to a visit from him and his family.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from GARR and MACALISTER, Philad[elphia], Oct. 1, 1849.

Certifies a purchase in his behalf of eight shares of Bank of Kentucky [stock].

L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from GARR and MACALISTER, Philad[elphia], Oct. 3, 1849.

Acknowledges receipt of payment for bank stock which will be delivered when returned from Kentucky where it has been sent for transfer.

L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[REV. NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Wilmington, from R. D. HICKS, Wilmington, Oct. 20, 1849.

Mr. Ridgely's note has been discounted. Hopes his rest from business soon restores his health. Tells of his own small son's recent critical illness and of other personal matters.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 25cm.

REV. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] P. TILDEN, Phila[delphia], Nov. 15, 1849.

Promises an [originally] enclosed note will be promptly met. Believes it would be best for Nicholas' health to accept the offer from Eugene [Ridgely] to return to Dover, but considers him the best judge. Mentions his own wife and children, Sarah [Tilden] and Josephine Delahay.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from GARR and MACALISTER, Philad[elphia], Nov. 16, 1849.

Sends a stock certificate with an apology for delay in its delivery.

L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from WILLIAM A. BUDD f[o]r L. B. DU BOIS, Philad[elphia], Nov. 20, 1849.

Presents a bill for Wilmington R[ailroad bonds] suggesting payment by a d[ra]ft on Philadelphia since checks of Wilmington banks "will not go at par here".

L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from WILLIAM A. BUDD f[o]r L. P. DU BOIS, Philad[elphia], Nov. 22, 1849.

Acknowledges a receipt of \$269.25 for which a certificate for a \$300 Wilm[ington] R[ailroad bond] will be sent promptly.

L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 24.5cm.

CHAPTER II

CHARLES I. DUPONT AND FAMILY

A textile manufacturer and prominent citizen of Wilmington, Delaware, Charles I. duPont, became allied to the Ridgely family by his marriage on May 11, 1841, to Ann, daughter of Henry M. and Sally (Banning) Ridgely. He was born March 29, 1797 in Charleston, South Carolina, the eldest son of the French consul, Victor Marie duPont and Gabrielle Josephine (dePelleport) duPont, and a grandson of the scholar, economist and statesman, Pierre Samuel duPont. Though his parents went back to France during his infancy, before his third birthday they had returned to settle in the United States. Charles' early boyhood was for the most part spent at Bergen Point, New Jersey and Angelica, New York, a village then on the north-western frontier, though one source¹ indicates that he was a student of the Wilmington College in June 1806. When he was not quite thirteen the family established itself along the Brandywine not far from Wilmington, Delaware, across the creek from where Eleuthere Irenee duPont, his uncle, had an already promising powder mill in operation. His own father, Victor duPont, had given up his diplomatic career before coming to the United States to establish citizenship, and had since that time been a merchant. In 1810 he founded a woolen mill, and the following year built his home "Louviers" on the Brandywine. A biography² states that at sixteen Charles I. duPont had regretfully left Mt. Airy College in Germantown, Pennsylvania, to assist his father in the management of the mill, but that he had for some time thereafter continued his studies under his mother's direction. In 1824 he married Dorcas Van Dyke, daughter of a prominent lawyer and statesman of New Castle. The wedding was one of the notable events of its time because the Marquis deLaFayette, then on his tour of the United States, was among the guests. A small stone house along the Brandywine near "Louviers", whose elliptical stone in the gable end with the inscription "C. I. D. 1823" has puzzled many observers, was Charles duPont's home until, upon the death of his father in

¹ *Along The Brandywine*, by Frank R. Zebley, p. 110, [William N. Cann, Inc., pr., Wilmington, Delaware], 1940.

² *Memorial Of Charles I. duPont . . .*, [anon.] Henry Eckel, pr. Wilmington, [Delaware], 1869, 11 pp.

1827, he inherited "Louviers". There were five children born of Charles duPont's first marriage, of whom three, Mary V., Victor and Charles I. duPont, Jr., survived infancy. Dorcas (Van Dyke) duPont died in 1838, while her children were all quite young.

In January 1841 Mr. duPont began a term as State Senator from New Castle County. During his consequent stay in Dover he probably became more closely acquainted with Henry M. Ridgely. It is certain that he then met Mr. Ridgely's hostess, his twenty-six-year-old daughter Ann. Courtship and marriage followed within the next four months. He continued in the legislature until 1844, and was elected again for the years 1853-57. He was early enthusiastic about the possibilities of railroads, and was one of the pioneers in efforts to charter, finance and build a line to connect the full length of Delaware with the great urban markets. After the Delaware Railroad Company was organized he became one of its directors. He was also a director of the Farmer's Bank of Delaware and president of its Wilmington branch. The correspondence shows that during the middle years of the century he purchased a number of farm properties, in whose management he took an active part. The letters likewise indicate that he was an ardent member of the Whig Party, and a friend and supporter of John M. Clayton through most of that statesman's career. He did not, however, follow him into the Know Nothing Party, whose religious intolerance and general chauvinism he could not accept. Despite the Southern sympathies of many of his friends and former political associates, he was a strong Union supporter during the Civil War. Having retired from the textile business in 1856, he devoted the final thirteen years of his life to civic affairs, his other business interests, and the operation of the farms in which he had invested. On January 31, 1869 he died at "Louviers" in his seventy-second year.

Mrs. Charles I. duPont, as Ann Ridgely, had been the seventh of Henry M. and Sally (Banning) Ridgely's fifteen children, and the third among the eight of them who lived beyond infancy. She was born in Dover on February 21, 1815, near the close of her father's second term as United States Representative. Because public business had detained him in Washington beyond that date, she appeared in the family correspondence on the first full day of her life, when her brother Charles George

described her as "the handsomest child that ever you had" and her uncle Nicholas Ridgely reported that she and her mother were both very well. Allusions to her as she grew into girlhood show Ann Ridgely as studious, intelligent, and well-adjusted to the demands of life. She had the added good fortune to be pretty, poised and a general favorite. Family tradition says that her father directed her education himself, and that he included in it Latin and other subjects usually reserved for boys. All the available evidence suggests that she was never sent away to school, although the step was sometimes considered. History, extensive reading, and English composition with emphasis upon ability to write an interesting and technically correct letter formed the core of her curriculum when she was from eleven to fourteen. There are references to the study of French when she was thirteen, eighteen and twenty, without sufficient detail to show how continuous this interest was. Painting lessons, too, are mentioned. She likewise learned much about cooking, sewing, household management and the art of entertaining. From her middle teens she assumed much responsibility for the care of the younger children and the home, for her mother's vision had been poor and her health frail for some years before her death in Ann's twenty-second year. During the next four years she was homemaker, hostess and comrade for her father, companion for her teen-age brothers Nicholas and Eugene, and virtually a mother to Williamina and Edward, the babies of the Ridgely family. She found time, too, for reading, correspondence, social activities of her own choosing, and occasionally, though less often than she wished, for visits to out-of-town friends.

It was, therefore, a mature woman whom Charles I. duPont met, wooed and married in the spring of 1841, though her age was but twenty-six years. She was, moreover, a person of energy and intelligence, long schooled in the skills and arts a smoothly running home requires, and more broadly educated than was usual for a woman in her generation.

Ann (Ridgely) duPont was to be the wife of Charles I. duPont and mistress of "Louviers" from 1841 to 1869, through twenty-eight busy years. Managing such a house was in itself a substantial task. Much of the sewing and gardening she did herself or with the help of the daughters of the household. There was, from the beginning, a bevy of young people about,

to whom she was both friend and guide. Since her husband was a conscientious employer, it was her duty to provide help for the mill families in emergencies. Most often this meant supplying food or clothing for those newly hired or the dependents of men stricken by illness or death; sometimes it meant visiting or even nursing the sick, and once, waiting on the doctors who were living at her house while attending a family infected with cholera, because the servants feared to approach them. There are many testimonials to her skill as a nurse, from Ridgelys, duPonts, and unrelated associates; there is none more graphic than the clumsy tribute of a Rockland villager in 1866: "... an all healing physician that is you which is next to Christ you cure whithout money whithout Price whithout Pain". Nor was Ann (Ridgely) duPont's life at "Louviers" all duty. The duPont cousins whose homes clustered about the mills on the Brandywine made up in themselves, a congenial social circle of intelligent men and women. Through her girlhood friends in the vicinity as well as through her husband's relatives, Mrs. duPont had contacts with many of the professional and business families of Wilmington and New Castle. As railroad service improved, she travelled with increasing frequency, sometimes with her husband for pleasure, sometimes to meet some family need. Her interests, as her correspondence proves, were broad. Her brothers wrote to her as freely of politics and business as they did of family affairs; women consulted her on household matters; she was actively concerned with the education of her own and her friend's children; there are hints that she still found time for reading and painting. She enjoyed, above all, a loving comradeship with her husband.

After Charles I. duPont's death, his widow moved into Wilmington, where she lived at 1223 Market Street. The twenty-nine years of her widowhood, like the nearly equal period of her marriage, were busy ones for Mrs. duPont, even if not outwardly very eventful. Her concern for the members of the Ridgely and duPont families remained the central fact in her life. Very near to it in importance came her interest in every human being of whatever degree who needed her help. She handled much of her own business. Her letters tell of visits to many places in the eastern United States, and, in 1878, of a trip to Europe. Tracing family history absorbed much of her time; so too did family portraits, several of which she commis-

sioned or had restored. She cooperated closely with Horace Smith, Gregory B. Keen, and J. M. McCarter and B. F. Jackson, among others, in preparing their accounts of families of which she had knowledge. She carried a love of pets throughout her life. Social gatherings, plays, music, current styles in dress and furnishing, all offered congenial diversion.

Though her interests remained both varied and keen until the very end of her life, she was not to be spared much loneliness in its last decade. Her health was frequently fragile, barring her from much she wished to do. Many associates died, some of them life-long companions. Three were especially deep personal losses: Annie Johnson, a beloved niece; Sophie duPont, the closest of her friends among her husband's family; and finally her only son, Henry R. duPont. Her own death occurred on October 20, 1898. She was buried in the duPont family cemetery above the Brandywine near Wilmington.

Ann (Ridgely) and Charles I. duPont were the parents of two children, Amelia Elizabeth duPont, born February 26, 1842; and Henry Ridgely duPont, born November 19, 1848. The household for many years also included Miss Mary V. duPont and, from 1853, the orphan daughter of Rev. Nicholas Ridgely, Miss Mary T. Ridgely, called Mollie in the letters. Henry R. duPont was educated at Delaware Military Academy, and at Lawrenceville Academy. During his adult years he was a Wilmington attorney. He died unmarried in April, 1893. Amelia Elizabeth, always known in the family as Amie, in 1866 married Eugene duPont, a son of her father's cousin Alexis. The groom, then a chemist in the powder plant, in time became president of the duPont Company. They were the parents of six children, Anne, later Mrs. William Peyton; Julia, later Mrs. James N. Andrews; Amy; Mary V., who died in infancy; Alexis I.; and Eugene duPont, Jr. Those of this family who were living in 1941: Mrs. Peyton, Mr. Eugene duPont, Miss Amy duPont and Mrs. Andrews, gave to the Public Archives Commission of Delaware, through the intercession of Mrs. Henry Ridgely, the greater portion of this collection of Ridgely papers, which they had inherited through their grandmother, Ann (Ridgely) duPont.

Other relatives of Charles I. duPont occur in the correspondence with some frequency. His immediate family included his sister Amelia Elizabeth, and her daughter, Gabrielle Josephine,

wife of William Breck; his sister Julia Sophie, wife of Irvine Shubrick, and her children; and his brother Samuel Francis duPont, who attained the rank of Rear Admiral in the United States Navy. Admiral duPont, referred to familiarly as Frank, married a cousin, Sophie Madeleine duPont. Between this couple and Charles I. and Ann duPont there was an attachment even more intimate than that which bound together all the members of the duPont family. The couple's contacts with nearly all of Mr. duPont's cousins, however, were close. These cousins, the children of Eleuthère Irénée duPont, were: Victorine, wife and widow of Ferdinand Bauduy; Eveline Gabrielle, wife of James A. Bidermann; Alfred Victor; Eleuthère, wife of Thomas M. K. Smith; Sophie Madeleine, wife of Samuel Francis duPont; Henry and Alexis Irénée duPont.

Communications addressed to or written by Charles I. duPont, although they number but thirty-seven documents, include material bearing on most of the important phases of his career. Among these were the organization and financing of the Delaware Railroad Company, with hints of the political battles waged in its behalf, discussion of farming methods and management, and glimpses into the textile business in the middle nineteenth century. He discussed political questions with his friend John M. Clayton, United States Senator and Secretary of State; United States Senator James A. Bayard, Jr.; Chancellor Samuel M. Harrington; and others of less prominence. The letters, in their personal aspect, reveal a man warmly attached to his family, just and considerate. In the collection at the Hall of Records, but not in the *Calendar*, is a folder of fifteen miscellaneous Charles I. duPont documents, mostly bills, receipts and other business papers. It also contains a copy of an anonymous biographical sketch *Memorial Of Charles I. duPont*, (1869), two pamphlets of 1827 relative to the protective tariff, and the rough draft of a speech apparently delivered at the formal opening of the Delaware Railroad. There are a number of letters and other papers of Charles I. duPont among the family archives collected by Mr. Pierre S. duPont at "Longwood", Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Charles I. duPont's correspondence furnishes the major material of this chapter. Letters she received from her brothers and sister, and from her sisters-in-law Virginia (Jenkins) and Mary (Tilden) Ridgely carry the annals of the Ridgely family

from 1841 to 1896. They supply numerous details of the growth and social atmosphere of Dover, and chronicle the affairs of many of its inhabitants. They likewise show that to Nicholas and Edward Ridgely, Mr. and Mrs. duPont were trusted friends and counselors. Now and then one of the brothers wrote of his attitude toward some national issue. But for the most part the family correspondence treats of personal and local matters. That of Mrs. duPont's sister, Williamina, as Mrs. Alexander Johnson, is entirely on that level. She wrote of her household affairs, the satisfactions and the trials of a farm wife, her children, her furniture, her clothes, and finally something of the illness which resulted in her early death. Later, Williamina's son Nicholas and daughter Annie continued to keep their aunt in touch with affairs of the Johnson family and with their own interests. A few letters from Mrs. duPont's son and daughter, Henry and Amy duPont, and from her granddaughter Miss Anne duPont, give further insight into the life of her immediate family. Almost as intimate are the few letters between her and Mrs. Sophie duPont. Occasional correspondence with her mother's relatives indicates continuing contact through the years with members of the Banning, Davis and Hillyard families. A sizable portion of Mrs. duPont's later correspondence concerns the genealogy of the Ridgely family and its collateral connections. Two letters of especial interest belong to this phase. One, from Mrs. Emily Banning, enclosed copies of two Rodney documents pertaining to a one-sided romance between Caesar Rodney, the Signer, and Mary Vining, an aunt of the Revolutionary belle. In the other, Mrs. duPont explained to Mr. J. LeRoy White of Baltimore how the collection now in the State Archives came into her possession. After her father's death some twenty-four bushels of family documents of the Ridgelys and allied lines lay neglected in an attic of the family home in Dover during the nearly forty years his widow survived him. Following Mrs. Sally Ann (Comegys) Ridgely's death Mrs. duPont took the papers and patiently sorted out for preservation those not already ruined. In the same letter she stated that the early Ridgely records were for the most part in Chancellor Ridgely's possession and were destroyed at his death. Most interesting of Mrs. duPont's miscellaneous correspondents, of whom there were several, was Watson R. Sperry, her neighbor for some years. He was editor of the *Wilmington*

Morning News during his residence in that city. In the Harrison Administration he was appointed Minister to Persia, and after his retirement lived in Germany. Most of his extant letters, dealing with his family, his travels, public affairs and mutual acquaintances at home, are written from that country. Mrs. duPont's personal papers, not abstracted in this *Calendar*, numbering thirteen items, contain genealogical notes, the rough draught of a biographical sketch of her father and a clipping from *Harper's Weekly* concerning Mr. Sperry at the time of his appointment to Teheran.

Other members of Charles I. duPont's family are represented by scattered items only. These include school letters from Alexis and Anne duPont to their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene duPont, between 1880 and 1890; a few letters to Eugene duPont from his cousin, Henry A. duPont, the future Colonel, during his cadet days at West Point; and a very few business and personal letters relating chiefly to duPont Company affairs in the last decade of the century.

The entire group of papers thus covers more than half a century and introduces scores of individuals of four generations, some of them members of the Ridgely family, some collateral relatives or close friends, others only casual associates. Taken together, they recreate the customs and convictions of an influential segment of the community from the time of Presidents Harrison and Tyler until the older of our own contemporaries were grown.

Save for Williamina (Ridgely) Johnson, photographs or other portraits of the principal Ridgely and duPont contributors to the family chronicle are extant.

ABSTRACTS

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Brandywine, [Del.], from MARY [MRS. JAMES COUPER, JR., New Castle, Del., c. May 1841].

Congratulates her upon the happy prospect her marriage opens. Hopes her own sister, Sarah [Mrs. William Young], may also be happy. Cannot call because the carriage horse is sick.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover, May 17, 1841.

The family is pleased to learn that Ann is so happy in her new home. Will bring "Willy" [Ridgely] for her promised visit if the roads are passable. Remarks teasingly that she should have been married sooner, since the destructive rains stopped almost as soon as she left. In the same vein asks her to select and court a wife for him. Mr. [Thomas] Hillyard is dangerously ill. Is concerned for Aunt Mary [Mrs. Thomas Hillyard] if he dies.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.6cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.], from [MRS.] MARY A. BOYD, "Telegraph Hill", . . ., May 21, 1841.

A friend of Mrs. duPont's parents wishes to postpone a proposed visit to the Brandywine until a daughter can accompany her.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from NICHOLAS [RIDGELY] and H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover, May 22, 1841.

Announces the death of Uncle [Thomas] Hillyard from "bilious typhoid pneumonia". His wife and children are left in straightened circumstances. Nicholas speaks of their uncle's religious attitude, and of his interest "in our little Mill Creek Sunday school". Henry adds a medical note and recounts a prophetic dream Aunt Mary [Mrs. Hillyard] had the night of Ann's wedding.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from E. B. [MRS. JOHN C.] GROOME, [New Castle, Del.], May 25, [1841].

Expects the duPonts to spend the following day with her, her aunts, and Sarah [Young]. Enjoyed her own call [at "Louviers"], for "the sight of your happiness has made me happy". Mentions Mr. [William] Young and Mr. . . . Blake.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Dover, May 25, 1841.

Chides her for failing to write to Aunt Mary Hillyard. Mentions the death of "Mr. . . . Patton's second wife". The family "seems to have no connecting link to bind us together" since Ann's departure. Thinks it will be a great advantage to "Willy" to stay in Wilmington. Will enter the Methodist ministry though

he expects opposition. Writes of Mr. . . . Baushman, Mr. . . . Trapnell, the Ridgely garden, and "the kindness and affection, as well as the taste and intelligence of the [duPont] family . . .".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Brandywine, N[ew] Castle County, [Del.], from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover, June 5, 1841.

Enjoyed his visit with her and a call at Dr. [James] Couper's [Jr.] in New Castle. Writes enthusiastically of his farm. Cannot understand the eagerness of Brother Charles [George Ridgely] and his wife, who have been visiting in Dover, to move to Wilmington "when they are doing so well" [in Georgetown]. Expects to bring Nick [Nicholas Ridgely] when he comes to Wilmington on business, in the hope a talk with Ann may offset the Methodists' influence upon him. Hears he recently preached. Father [H. M. Ridgely] opposes sending "Willy" [Ridgely to Wilmington] to school. Mentions Mrs. [William] Young, Mrs. . . . Boyer and Uncle John Banning.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, New Castle, Del., June 8, 1841.

Appreciates a pencil Ann sent as a gift while on her honeymoon. Speaks of the duPont households as comprising "a society of congenial minds large enough for enjoyment without going beyond . . . near relatives", an unusual circumstance "in our 'go ahead' country". Mentions her own relatives, the unpleasant weather, and a trip to Chambersburg [Penna.] by boat and train.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover, June 10, [18]41.

He and Nicholas will come up by the Smyrna steamboat to avoid dust choked roads. Drought has ruined the strawberries. "Willy" [Ridgely] must attend [Dubre Knight's] school all year; hopes she will be more studious there. Gives news of "[Mammy] Margaret", Judge Samuel Harrington, and the sale of Mr. [Thomas] Hillyard's property. Nicholas fears his religious choice has lessened Ann's affection.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.6cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover, June 16, 1841.

Had a tiresome trip home. Nicholas' carpet-bag was sent up by stage. Will ignore Mr. and Mrs. . . . Austin. Mentions Sarah Black, Tom Stokes, Mrs. . . . Sipple, "the Raybolds", Ben Bradford, and the members of his own family. Alludes to a

gift of cigars and "ginger-nuts", Will[iamina Ridgely's] studies, and her "infamous Tippecanoe songs". Can meet the duPonts at the landing. Hopes Victor, Charley [Charles I. Jr.,] and Mary duPont will accompany them.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.6cm.

MRS. C[CHARLES] I. DUPONT, Dover, from CHARLES [I. DUPONT], "Louviers", [Del.], June 27, [1841].

Plans for Colonel [John] Haslet's reinterment at Dover are progressing well, though "[William]Huffington is a Goose". Tells of his own activities, a projected parade in Philadelphia before the body is placed aboard the *Kent*, and the cooperation offered by the Hibernian Society. Expects at least two hundred visitors in Dover; "several military companies would attend if there was a possibility of . . . landing within six miles". Is lonely in his bride's absence but delighted that she can visit her old home without regretting her choice. Discusses bringing his sons, his daughter Mary [duPont] and "Willy" [Ridgely] down for the ceremonies. "These large children" are sometimes "more troublesome than babies". Declined an invitation from the Groomes. [His sisters and their families] are well.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [near Wilmington], from JNO. W. OSBORNE, GEO[RGE] P. FISHER and N. B. SMITHERS, [Dover], June 29, [1841].

Asks Mrs. duPont "to aid in decorating the State House for the reception of the remains of Col. [John] Haslet".

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.8cm. x 20.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, c/o H. M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] MARY DUPONT and [CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., June 30, 1841.

Mary is sorry her [step-]mother has been ill during her visit to Dover. Tells of everyday activities, a visit to Matilda Wales, prizes Victor and Charles [duPont] have won, and plans for a trip to Dover. Because Mr. duPont cannot accompany them, she and "Willy" [Ridgely] cannot stop for dinner enroute, so will carry a picnic lunch. They have read little history in Mrs. duPont's absence. Mentions "Aunt Sophie" [duPont] and Irénée [duPont].

Mr. duPont expresses concern over his wife's health. Discusses plans for coming to Dover. Tells of a prize Victor [duPont] won in close competition with [his cousin] Frank Shubrick.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., from SARAH B. [MRS. WILLIAM] Y[OUNG], New Castle, Del., July 31, [1841].

Reports the drowning of Ross Crawford while trying to rescue a shipmate from Delaware Bay. The tragedy makes her doubly uneasy about her own husband's safety on shipboard. Inquires about Ann's health, the expected return of [Lieutenant Samuel Francis duPont], and gives news of her own sister Elizabeth [Groome].

A. L. S. 5 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], from SARAH B. [MRS. WILLIAM] Y[OUNG], New Castle, Del., post July 31, 1841].

A slight but annoying illness has kept her from spending the day at "Louviers". Alludes to "poor [Ross] Crawford" and her uneasiness about [William Young].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES [I.] DUPONT, ["Louviers", Del.], from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES COUPER, JR., New Castle, Del., c. August 1841].

Chats of household duties and the activities of her relatives. Insists upon a visit from Ann soon. Will attend a meeting of the American Missionary Society in Philadelphia; hopes Ann may be in the city then "to visit the Museum". Inquires about members of the duPont family, her general and "Sabbath" reading and the "very fine Library at Mrs. [Victorine] Bauduy's" to which she has access. Mentions "Stephens" and *The Tanqui*.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Dover, Aug. 19, 1841.

Thinks "Willy" [Ridgely] should be entered at [Dubre] Knight's school for a full year and should study French. Offers to pay the additional costs. Finds home so unattractive without a mistress he sometimes wishes their father would remarry. Will enter the Methodist ministry despite considerations of "pride and ambition", but would probably have been a candidate for Episcopal ordination had Mr. [Alfred] Lee been bishop when his choice was made. Mentions Henry, Eugene, Ned, and H[enry] M. [Ridgely], Aunt Mary [Hillyard] and her son Charles [Hillyard], their cousin Mrs. Ann Sipple, and "Aunt" [Mammy] Margaret.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [DR.] HENRY [RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 5, 1841.

Has abandoned medical practice, begun two years ago to please their father, to follow his own choice of farming. There is much illness in Kent County, chiefly "bilious fevers & agues", but little to challenge a doctor's skill. Though the people make excessive demands on his time, they are "so poor a bill of ten or fifteen dollars is enough to ruin one half of them". Hopes to bring Aunt [Mary B. Ridgely] and "Willy" [Ridgely] when he comes to the Agricultural Exhibition in Wilmington soon. Is glad their father gave his law library to Brother Charles [George Ridgely] since Nicholas [Ridgely] has not studied law. Mentions "Willy's history lessons, Bishop [Alfred] Lee, and a plague of mosquitoes.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 23, [1841].

Discusses plans for her own and "Aunt's" [Mary B. Ridgely] forthcoming trip to Wilmington with [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely]. Refers to Dubre Knight's school, a winter bonnet, Mrs. . . . Austin, Mrs. [Irving] Shubrick, and "Madame Amelia" [duPont].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, c/o H. M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLI[AMINA] M. RIDGELY, and CHARLES [I. DUPONT], Wilmington, Oct. 10, 1840 [1841].

"Willie" reports spending a pleasant day with the duPonts. She likes [Dubre Knight's] school; has "only one cross teacher". Sends messages to the family. Thinks there "must be a death-mark" in a house whose recent tenants have died.

Mr. duPont misses his wife greatly. Urges her not to overwork and to "avoid the night air". Must attend the funeral of Gen[era]l [Callender] Irvine, a family friend. Mentions Sophie [duPont] his own children and Julia [Shubrick] who is pleased with her new home. Is tempted to visit Boston and Lowell, [Massachusetts] during his wife's absence.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES [I.] DUPONT, c/o H. M. RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES [I. DUPONT], "Louviers", [Del.], Oct. 15, 1841.

Is worried at not hearing from her. Refers to Mary [duPont], "Willy" [Ridgely], a new style his wife has introduced in Dover, household affairs, and a box of candles to be sent down by the next stage.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES [I.] DUPONT, c/o H. M. RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., Oct. 17, 1841.

Teases his wife about becoming "altogether spoiled" from the expressions of affection she is receiving from him and her father. Now understands how much (H. M.) Ridgely misses her. Discusses plans for her return. Supposes she is "making sundry small articles of wearing apparel". Speaks of Mr. and Mrs. . . . Sipple, of "Willy" [Ridgely] and his own children. The candlemaker will deliver an order when his wagon comes down with "a load of soap & candles".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] V. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., Oct. 21, [c. 1841].

Gives the news from home, mentioning her father and brothers, Aunt Sophie [duPont], Aunt Julia's [Shubrick] new house called "Sycamore Cottage", her own flowers and a boat the boys [Victor and Charles I. duPont] have received as a New Year's gift. "Willy" [Ridgely] seems well satisfied at school.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. ANNIE [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, "Louviers", Wilmington, from S[ARAH] B. [MRS. WILLIAM] YOUNG, New Castle, Del., Oct. 31, [c. 1841].

Expects to move to Philadelphia with her husband in a few days. Leaving home is difficult. Hopes Ann persuaded her father to engage a housekeeper. Tells of family matters and mutual friends. Inquires about Mr. [John] Lockwood and, with obvious malice, about Mrs. [John] Lockwood and her infant.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Wilmington, Nov. 17, 1841.

Gives the news from home. [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] has moved to ["Eden Hill"] farm where he is "comfortably fixed". Hopes her bonnet is finished, for she dreads wearing her old one for marching to Quaker meeting tomorrow. Nicholas [Ridgely] is considering a horseback trip "through all the principal towns, . . . delivering temperance lectures". Mentions Brother Charles [George Ridgely] and family, "Corneal" [Cornelia Woodall] and "Liz" [Comegys], Dr. [Arnold] Naudain, Mary [duPont] and Mrs. . . . Comegys.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Dover, Nov. 18, 1841.

Charles [George Ridgely] and his wife recently visited Dover. Tells of a trip to Sussex County with Daniel Bates, and of surveying the Duck Creek farm. [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] and Aunt [Mary B. Ridgely] have moved to the farm ["Eden Hill"]. Inquires about the [Blue] Ball and Brandywine Sunday Schools. Asks Mrs. [Victorine] Bauduy's opinion of *The Way For A Child To Be Saved*. Accepts blindness as a certainty. "Dover people are fast becoming . . . as cold in their treatment to strangers as the regions of the North". Refers to members of the Ridgely and duPont families, the Misses Hemphill, and Ann's skill in treating illness.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., Nov. [24], 1841.

Discusses family affairs, particularly those of Sarah and [William Young]. Plans for a day with Ann, [Mrs.] Sophie [duPont], and Lizzie [Groome]. Believes her husband, [Dr.] James [B. Couper, Jr.] can help Mr. duPont find a nurse for Ann [in childbirth] but would be embarrassed to have her own name mentioned in connection with the suggestion. Considers Nicholas [Ridgely] a "lovely character".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, [Del.], Dec. 25, 1841.

Sends Christmas greetings. Explains why a [baby's] frock she presents is not just what she wished. Believes Ann was wise to postpone her party. Mentions Nicholas [Ridgely] and Sarah [Young].

A. N. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 26, 1841.

Tells of "the dullest Christmas day I ever passed", the first of his life without mother, wife or daughter to preside at his table. Despite his suggestion that "some of the young ladies of the town" be invited, the dinner party included only Henry, Nicholas, Eugene and Edward, Nicholas' guest Mr. . . . Johnson, now of Sussex County but originally a New Englander, and Mrs. [Mary B.] Ridgely. Is glad Ann can spend the holidays gaily. Sends a ham for her dinner party "one of the very oldest", for "connoisseurs . . . prize a ham according to its age". Hopes Mr. duPont's family may accompany him when he comes to Dover

for the Farmers' Bank meeting. Asks them to consider his house "exactly as you would your own". The "willow market basket" sent in the care of Levi Hynson "the Negro man freed by my brother" contains Christmas cakes, the gift of [Mammy] Margaret, and sweet potatoes and apples from [Avery] Draper. Regrets allowing Eugene [Ridgely] and Matthew . . . to cut up and cure the hogs, for the new hams are "perfect circles, round as the letter O".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Dover, Jan. 3, 1842.

Refers to his recent twenty-first birthday. Admires Bishop [Alfred] Lee as a man and a speaker. Hopes "Charles [George Ridgely] is under serious [religious] impressions" and that he will now keep his temperance pledge. Father [H. M. Ridgely] has abandoned the use of intoxicants but still serves them. Grieves that none of his close relatives have been confirmed. Sends a copy of Mrs. . . . Ligourner's, *The Old Man* to Mrs. Sophia duP[ont], and inquires about Mrs. [Victorine] Bauduy's Sunday School.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES [I.] DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MRS.] ELIZABETH GILLILAN, New York, N. Y., Jan. 10, 1842.

Resumes a long interrupted correspondence to tell her cousin of the death of her sister Helen's [Ruff] husband in New Orleans. Reports the marriage of her sister Juliet [Wright], who is now travelling in Europe. Remembers Williamina [Ridgely] as "a pretty baby . . . with her bright black eyes and jet black hair". Hopes correspondence between their families may continue, and visits be exchanged.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MRS. WILLIAM YOUNG] and [MRS.] M[ARIA] E. B[LACK], Philadelphia, Jan. 28-29, [1842].

Writes as an evidence of her deep affection, though she has been in great pain for some hours and believes her child will soon be born.

Her mother completes the letter, reporting the birth of a sturdy boy.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Dover, Feb. 3, [c. 1842].

Has taken the [district] school at the request of the commissioners and on his father's advice. Finds this, with his own studies, overtaxes his eyes; is reconciled to eventual blindness. Attributes his father's improved health and spirits to his recent total abstinence. The Dover Lyceum, now holding semi-weekly public meetings, is growing in membership and prestige. D[aniel M.] Bates has spoken there on "Freedom of Investigation". Discusses certain religious conceptions.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", near Wilmington, from SARAH B. [MRS. WILLIAM] YOUNG, Philadelphia, Feb. [c. 28, 18]42.

Congratulates her friend on the birth of her daughter [Amelia Elizabeth duPont, called Amie] and tells of her own month-old Jamie [Young]. Has been very weak from being bled at the time of the infant's birth, but is now recovering. Acknowledges a recent gift.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.], from S. BLACK, Wilmington, Feb. 28, 1842.

Rejoices at the good news [birth of Amie duPont] and hopes Ann recovers her strength quickly. Mentions Mary [duPont], Mary [Couper], Elizabeth [Groome], and Jane [James Young] is a promising baby.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.3cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover], March 4, 1842.

Congratulates his sister on the birth of her child. Mentions Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely and "Willy."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from LIZZIE [MRS. JOHN C. GROOME], Elkton, [Md.], March 9, [1842].

After asking the most rigid secrecy, requests her friend to engage her a nurse for late August, preferably Mrs. Rhumar who is so highly recommended. Begs Ann to respect her confidence, for "I should not have the courage to go to see you if anyone knew it". She herself, her husband, and sons Jamie and Johnny [Groome] have all been ill. Gives news of her family, and refers to [Amie duPont].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., March 10, 1842.

Congratulates her upon the birth of her daughter, asks if Elizabeth Ridgely [duPont], or Amelia Elizabeth [duPont] is the name selected, and hopes the little note Ann wrote has caused her no injury from overexertion. Refers briefly to Mrs. Sarah Young and her son James Black [Young], Jamie Groome, Sophie [Mrs. S. F. duPont], her own husband, and "poor Billy's . . . wedding" which she hopes will bring happiness but fears is "a sacrifice on his part".

A. L. S.

3 pp.

20cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, April 16, 1842.

Announces his engagement to Sally Ann Comegys. Loneliness and the need of someone with authority to manage his home have induced him to remarry. Is glad he did not selfishly dissuade Ann from a marriage that promises such happiness. Hopes all his children will approve his decision. Explains how he recorded the birth of his grandchild, Amelia Elizabeth duPont, [in his Bible]. Alludes to "Willy's" [Ridgely] recent return from school, to her friends Cornelia Woodall, "Miss Dillon of Ohio", Elizabeth Frazer of Little Creek Neck, Hester Truitt and Lavinia Cowgill, and to an annoyance Ann recently suffered in Wilmington from "that person" who, her father assures her, never visits his house. [Rev.] Nicholas Ridgely's future address is Greensborough, Caroline County, Maryland.

A. L. S.

2 pp.

19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from S[ALLY] A[NN, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY and "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, June 4, 1842.

Mrs. Ridgely values her stepdaughter's letter of welcome. Assures her that the happiness of her husband and his family will be her first consideration, and that she will try to "perpetuate" the friendly spirit in which his children have received her. Urges Ann to visit Dover sooner than she now plans.

"Willy" acknowledges a parasol, sends greetings to the duPonts, and tells of her recent birthday party attended by "more than fifty" guests. "I remember the time when I wished so much to be fifteen, and now I wish I was a few years younger." Fears Mary [duPont] does not like Dover. Mentions Mrs. . . . Bates.

A. L. S.

3 pp.

19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] HENRY [RIDGELY], Dover, June 15, [1842].

Has been chosen to give the chief address at the Lyceum's Fourth of July celebration. Four members will also debate a suitable subject. Hopes Ann can be home to complete the Ridgely reunion; Nicholas and Brother Charles [George Ridgely] will be home then. Wants her to "try & persuade Father [H. M. Ridgely] to start Eugene [Ridgely] at farming" for this brother, at twenty-one, is "now industrious, clever and attentive" but needs responsibility to save him from being "ruined" as Brother C[harles George Ridgely] was by Mr. Ridgely's unwise course with him. Father seems happy in his second marriage. Hopes Ann will display no "coldness", for the family in Dover are "very fond" of Sally Ann [Ridgely]. Writes facetiously of his mild flirtation with both the Jenkins girls and one of their "handsome cousins". Bill Cooper and Anna Maria Morris are reported engaged. Tells of "Willy's" [Ridgely] recent party; "such kissing and hugging you never saw".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh, Md.], June 18, 1842.

Feels that loneliness justified their father's remarriage and does not believe their mother's place has been usurped. Finds a "peculiarity of [H. M. Ridgely's] temperament" which both he and Ann had dreaded is now less in evidence. Is pleased with his work and his charge in a circuit forty miles in length. Hopes "all the living members of the family" can be in Dover July 4. Discusses immortality. Inquires about the Sunday School maintained by Mrs. [Victorine] Bauduy and Mrs. [Thomas M.] Smith. He is trying to establish some on his circuit.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, June 20, 1842.

Begs her to bring Mary [duPont] when she visits Dover. "We haven't any moschetos at all." Bishop and Mrs. [Alfred] Lee, Mr. . . . Spear and Mr. . . . Ham, and the Rev. Mr. Ting [James Tyng] from Smyrna, who plans to hold Friday evening services in Dover if he can assemble a congregation, have recently been in town. Wants a lawn dress, some worsted, and handkerchiefs or "any kind of little ornament to wear around the neck". Writes affectionately of her infant niece Lizzie [Amie duPont], whom "Mammy" [Margaret] alludes to as "her little grandchild".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES [I.] DUPONT, c/o H. M. RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] I. D[U]P[ONT], "Louviers", Del., July 2, 1842.

Tells his wife in affectionate and playful terms that he misses her and their baby, and is gratified that Ann, too, is homesick. Alludes to recent business in Philadelphia. Is worried and angry at [President John] Tyler's veto of a tariff bill. Saw Mr. . . . Gardener and Miss . . . Gardener at Frank's [Lt. S. F. duPont, U. S. N.]. Refers to "a great day in Dover with the Sunday School".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES [I.] DUPONT, Dover, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del., c. July 1842].

Assures his wife of his safe arrival home. Refers to an intended trip to Philadelphia. Mentions Mr. and Mrs. [Henry M.] Ridgely, Mary [duPont], Mrs. [Ann] Sipple and the death of Mr. . . . Southard.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover, Aug. 19, [1842].

Complains volubly of the mosquitoes, "so thick that we can scarcely open our mouths after sundown". Has not lost his heart to "the beautiful Margarett" or any other of the Camden ladies but admits spending much time among them. Mentions Ruth Anna [Jenkins], "Miss Maria" and also Miss . . . Page and Mary Ellen Bayard, both apparently of Wilmington. Comments with distaste upon "the whole gang of Comegys", especially his step-mother Sally Ann [Ridgely]. Plans trips to Denton, Maryland and to Wilmington.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from J. C. GROOME, Elkton, [Md.], Sept. 3, 1842.

Reports the birth of a daughter early that morning. Hopes this little girl and [Amie duPont] may be as close friends as their mothers have been.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 24cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from ELIZABETH [MRS. J. C. GROOME], Elkton, [Md., c. fall, 1842].

Apologizes for her slowness in acknowledging a gift to her little daughter Maria [Groome]. Gives the news of her family and of mutual friends in New Castle, Wilmington and Philadelphia. Chides Ann for leaving Amy [duPont] at home when she

recently visited Dover. Discusses a doctrinal controversy in the [Episcopal] church. Alludes to friends from Delaware and Maryland now visiting Cape May.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. A[NN] R[IDGELY] DUPONT, c/o C. I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from EUGENE [RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 15, [18]42.

Suspects that [Rev.] Nicholas [Ridgely], who was home recently, is disappointed in the life of a Methodist preacher. [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] is the candidate of "the Locoes" for the Assembly, opposing Joseph Comegys. Miss Mary Stevenson recently became the fourth wife of David Lewis. Eliza Melvin has married a farmer from near Cincinnati. He himself and N. B. Harris are almost alone among his friends in resisting the hysteria of a neighboring camp meeting. Thinks "shouting and capering about" looks ridiculous. Tells of the care he is giving the garden and promises the plants Ann wants. Vegetable marrow is very successful. There have been many recent births in Dover. Mentions Brother Charles [G. Ridgely], Uncle John Banning, Dr. [Martin] Bates, W. Hemphill Jones, Mrs. . . . Harrington's infant, Mr. Hyder, a Dr. . . . Saulsbury recently arrived from Greensborough, Maryland, C[ornelia] Woodall, E[lizabeth] Frazer and the members of the Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, Greensboro[ugh], Md., Oct. 21, 1842.

Denies a report he is considering marriage. Alludes to his father's second marriage. He is disappointed in the atmosphere at home, and wishes he could offer a suitable home to "Willy" and Ned [Ridgely], who he feels are neglected. Discusses religious topics. There has been much fatal illness on his circuit.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. A[NN] R[IDGELY] DUPONT, c/o C. I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from EUGENE [RIDGELY], Dover, Oct. 26, [18]42.

Is recovering from an illness contracted at the end of harvest. [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] has become "quite a stump orator". His chance for election now seems good. J[ohn M.] Clayton, Dr. [Robert M.] Bird, and Thomas Clayton are expected to speak at "a great Whig meeting in Dover" where "a desperate effort to humbug the people of Kent with music, coon skins and hard cider" will be made. Mr. [Charles] Marim and Mr. . . . Smithers have withdrawn as Whig candidates for the State Senate. Politics and hard times are the only topics of conversation. Wishes

he had an "Angelic Creature" to accept the lovely Daily and Champney roses still blooming in the garden. Tells of a visit to Maryland, and of a pleasant party where "they had waltzing by Mr. Colbreth and Miss Taylor". Mentions Jim Clayton, Hetty Draper, "Clate" Cowgill, Mrs. . . . Todd, Miss M. Schee, Jo. McCobly and his own sister Will[iamina].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 11, 1842.

"The agony is at last over, & we poor loco-focos are just about used up" by the unsuccessful effort to "kill the 'old coon' in Kent". Tells of the campaign. Obviously believes a report the Comegys family attempted to make him run behind his ticket. Is cheered by the apparent victory of the [Democratic] State ticket. Thinks Charles' [G. Ridgely] election to the Assembly as a Whig may be disastrous to him both personally and financially. Thinks Nicholas [Ridgely] now regrets entering the ministry and that he is less fond of Sally Ann [Mrs. H. M. Ridgely] since his last visit home. Considers him lacking in judgment, and fears he may marry before he can support a wife.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS R[IDGELY], Greensboro[ugh, Md.], Dec. 15, 1842.

Preaches about four times weekly, in addition to much visiting and studying. Believes a Methodist clergyman, though poor, has a secure position. Likes the people of his circuit and could be happy in no other calling. Still hopes Ann will be confirmed. Refers to [William] Mill[er's] prediction of the end of the world in 1843.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, Jan. 3, 1842 [1843].

Reports the Ridgely family well and Aunt [Mary B. Ridgely] looking better than usual. Thinks Edward [Ridgely] "will be the handsomest of the family". Tells of the organization of the Assembly and his own living arrangements, mentioning Stansberry Jacobs, [Presley] Spruance, [George P.] Fisher, [John R.] McFee and . . . Redding. Is bored with the proceedings and anxious to be home. Several Dover children have died of scarlet fever.

A. L. S. 2pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. A. R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, from E[UGENE] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 4, [c. 1843].

Reports Mr. duPont's arrival in Dover, organization of the Assembly, the filing of 367 applications for appointment as Sergeant-at-arms, and about 600 for all the patronage posts together. Expects Ann soon, since the scarlet fever epidemic is over. There have been many holiday parties with "tableaux at some and dancing at all". Promises some terrapin if more appear in market. Miss Phelps, daughter of Dr. Phelps, a Maryland legislator, has decided to spend the winter in Dover rather than Annapolis. Comments on the new gentlemen's cloaks and on various bits of family news. "Charles [G. Ridgely] is now with us."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", near Wilmington, from C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Dover, Feb. 17, 1843.

Fears legislative business will not be completed next week. Has been complimented on a recent speech in the Senate on railroad matters. Charles [G. Ridgely] has completed but not presented his "report in regard to Delaware College". Regrets that "J. M. Clayton and . . . Frame, making a tool of . . . Comegys" are fostering the opposition [to one of the programs above] in the hope of involving the State in lawsuits to their personal profit. Is worried about Amie [duPont].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover, Feb. 21, 1843.

Is delighted with wallpaper she has chosen for him. Wants Venetian blinds if they are not too expensive. Is disgusted that George Henry [Ridgely] is allowed to smoke cigars and chew tobacco. "It looks very ugly in children." C[h]arles George Ridgely and his family are "at Father's". There are many parties in Dover.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", near Wilmington, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, Feb. 26, 1843.

Writes affectionately on their daughter's first birthday, urging Ann to guard her health both for their own happiness and so she may guide the little girl in her own footsteps. Opposition to the railroad bill has collapsed. "My Homapath" [Bill, giving homeopathic physicians the right to charge fees, and sue for payment] also passed. Discusses an investigation into affairs of Delaware College, mentioning Mr. [Eliphalet W.] Gilbert and "the Rogers interest". Also spoke on the election and Wilmington charter bills. Thinks he has the approval of those whose

opinions he values. Refers to his older children. Suggested a remedy for her father's [H. M. Ridgely] lumbago, "but the Drs. have all cried me down as a homapath so I fear my advice will not be taken". [Mrs. Mary B. Ridgely] presented him with two pounds of the type of shaving soap [Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely] used; appreciates her thoughtfulness but not the soap.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

CH[ARLE]S I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from M. BROOKE BUCKLEY, Pres[ident] Office of P. W. & B. R. R. Co., Philad[elphi]a, March 21, 1843.

Encloses "a free ticket for passage over our route". Acknowledges Mr. duPont's assistance with the company's affairs in Delaware.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, Greensborough, [Md.], July 11, 1843.

Has not heard from her in four months. [H. M. Ridgely] is painting and papering his house. "Brother Charles [George Ridgely] is delightfully fixed up" in his Sussex County home; hopes he abandons the idea of moving to Wilmington. Dr. [James] Couper, [Jr.] has been confirmed. Fears Ann has not. Inquires about "Willy" [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.], from C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, New York, [N. Y.], July 14, 1843.

Wishes he had insisted that she accompany him. Maps an itinerary through West Point, Albany (where he must stay over night because no trains leave there on Sunday), Boston, Lowell and Providence. Though already homesick, he believes the firm will profit by his seeing "what progress & improvement is making in our business".

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DU[PONT], "Louv[iers]", near Wilmington, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Albany, [N. Y.], July 16, 1843.

Is satisfied with what he is learning, but regrets having come alone. Mentions Mr. [Edward] Gillilan, Mr. . . . Ashton, Mr. . . . Kemble, and Major [Richard] Delafield, Commander of West Point and "12 years ago a tenant of mine at the Hermitage while he was in charge of Fort Delaware". Finds Albany very dull. Hopes to find a letter from home at "the American Hotel, Broadway, New York".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover, July 26, [c. 1843].

Is pressed by farm and professional duties. Is not engaged to Virginia [Jenkins], but hopes to be; promises to tell Ann at once should he succeed. Teases "Willy" [Ridgely] about her "old admirer Colonel Cooper" and thanks her for a "guard" of excellent workmanship. Asks about a mocking-bird sent the duPonts. Mentions the members of the Ridgely family, Miss Harriet Hays, Jimmy Clayton, "Miss Sophy", and Dr. [Isaac] Jump. Alludes to the song *Day, Beautiful Day* "frequently sung by . . . Howard of Philadelphia".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.7cm.

MRS. A[NN] R[IDGELY] DUPONT, c/o CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from EUGENE R[IDGELY], Dover, Aug. 24, [18]43.

Is disappointed and angry because their father has made him postpone an eagerly awaited trip to Wilmington. Playfully threatens to go to Texas to become a bandit unless his father agrees to "set me up at farming". Sends a teasing message to Will[iamina]. Writes contemptuously of "our Camp Meeting". Implores Ann to try to dissuade [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] from joining the Methodists. Reports the death of "Mrs. Harper, the elder", visits from Miss . . . Nesbitt of Philadelphia, and from Nick [Ridgely] and Mr. [James] Nicols, . . . Todd and [Simon] Spearman appear likely to sustain losses in the peach business. The latter "has a railway from his orchard down to his landing in order to carry his peaches without bruising; he has about 50 men (paying 50 cts. a day) gathering for him and about a dozen watching every night". Their own garden has "a great variety of very beautiful Dahlias". Offers his sister "an Egyptian Calla" and any other plants or seeds she wishes. "All the 'beaus' [of Dover] have gone on an excursion to the Breakwater" [Lewes, Delaware]. Henry is going to a "protracted meeting" in Maryland.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, Hillsborough, [Md.], Sept. 11, 1843.

Thinks [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] is about to marry "Miss Virginia" [Jenkins]. Is concerned about Eugene's [Ridgely] associations and his failure to "assume the man more", but thinks "setting him up independently" might help him. Discusses religious questions. Regrets a controversy in the [Episcopal] Church over Dr. [Edward B.] Pusey's sermons.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR. HENRY RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 11, 1843.

Recently joined some of his Quaker friends of Camden [Delaware], on a trip to Easton [Maryland], "with Miss Virginia [Jenkins] as my travelling companion". Eugene's [Ridgely] report that he went to a protracted meeting in Maryland "under a deep religious conviction" is "nothing but a hoax". Is now engaged to Virginia. His sweetheart's qualifications for a wife include good family, amiable disposition, intelligence, education, sociability and a taste for domestic employments. Will be married before Christmas. Asks his sister to write Virginia a letter of welcome. Alludes to their brother's [Charles George Ridgely] youthful indiscretions as past and likely to be atoned for by his present and future conduct.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.7cm.

CHARLES I. and ANN DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], from JONATHAN and RUTH B. JENKINS, Camden, [Del.], Nov. 11, [18]43.

A formal invitation for "fifth-day evening the 16th inst[ant] at 5 o'cl[oc]k".

N. U. 1 p. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES [I.] DUPONT, c/o H. M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, Nov. 19, [18]43.

Tells the news of the household, urges her to accept invitations during her visit in Dover, and expresses his affection. Mentions Mary, Victor and Charles [I. duPont, Jr.]. Remarks teasingly that of course [Amie duPont] was thirsty at Blackbird, [Delaware], for "it was a famous drinking place".

A. L. U. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 22, 1843.

Apologizes for delay in writing. Their step-mother has been very cool toward his wife. Alludes to the certain bankruptcy of [ex-Governor Cornelius P. Comegys]. Sends "Willy's" order for light blue and pink worsted for a chair bottom. Refers to "several patients".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover], Dec. 26, 1843.

Tells of family activities, their father's recovery from a recent illness, and a Christmas gift of a beautiful bag. Dover is dull and the weather "doleful". June Warner, now "flourishing

. . . as large as life" in Dover, is breaking fewer hearts than Mary [duPont] did. Mentions "The Gazelle" and Manlove Hayes among Mary's admirers. Maria Comegys is visiting during Christmas week.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CH[ARLE]S I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, "Eden Hill", Del., Jan. 13, 1844.

Hopes a reconciliation with their step-mother may prove lasting. Is delighted that his wife and Aunt [Mary B. Ridgely] are fond of each other. It is a blessing that "Miss Maria" [the housekeeper] has gone. She scolded "everything, even to the chickens and pigs". [Cousins] Anna Maria and Emily Morris have been friendly, "but Aunt [Mary] Morris still rails on. Old age cannot dry up the gall that fills her heart". Fears [the dog] "Rindo" is lost.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.7cm.

MRS. A[NN] R[IDGELY] DUPONT, Wilmington, from EUGENE [RIDGELY], Dover, March 30, [18]44.

Is discouraged to see another spring pass without being able to start farming, the one occupation he has loved all his life. Asks her help in persuading their father to let him go as a tenant to "Linden" next year. Two new merchants from New York City have settled in Dover. Mentions "Willie" [Ridgely], Jno. McDowell, Mrs. . . . Welch, Miss Lizzy Cubbage and the marriage of the Rev. Mr. [J. D.] Long to Jacob Caulk's daughter.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, April 9, 1844.

Denies she failed to make a "guard" for Mr. duPont at Ann's request. Fears "Aunty" [Mary B. Ridgely] will not live long. Regrets that Henry married in her lifetime, since she and his wife no longer agree as they did at first. Hopes Mary [duPont] enjoys a contemplated trip to Washington. Mrs. William Clark has an infant daughter. Dan[iel M.] Bates and Miss [Margaret] Handy will marry in the fall. Copies, for Amie [duPont], a song about a thoughtless boy who destroyed a nestful of fledglings.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICH[OLAS] RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], April 15, [1844].

Presents his sister with a plain Bible, "to be read more than looked at". Has been appointed to the New Castle pastorate, which will be convenient and in many ways pleasant. Deplores

the sectarian jealousies there, and fears he may suffer from the confinement of a town parish, but is learning to accept every situation as a Christian challenge.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.5cm. x 19.8cm.

MRS. C[CHARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, June 30, 1844.

Tells of the death and burial of his sister-in-law, Ruthanna (Jenkins) Jump, who had been married but eight months. Refers to Aunt [MaryB.] Ridgely, his wife, sisters and brothers, Emma Parker, farm affairs, and "you noisy Whigs".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.7cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Esq., near Wilmington, from J[OHN] C. GROOME, Elkton, Md., July 17, 1844.

Announces the birth of "another Miss Groome". Banter of affiancing the Groome to the duPont children.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Dover, from [CHARLES I.] and MARY [DUPONT], "Louviers", Del., July 20, 1844.

Both report that all goes well at home, urge her to stay in Dover as long as she wishes, and allude to [the death of Charles George Ridgely]. Mary tells several anecdotes of Aimee [duPont] and mentions Aunt Julia [Shubrick], Charles, Jr. and Victor [duPont], and "Willie" [Ridgely]. Mr. duPont speaks of being "from 4 o'clock to 7 in my Race" repairing the mill wheel, the admiration [his coachman] John has for Nicholas Ridgely, a busy week ahead, and his own deep affection for his wife.

A. L. [S. by Mary duPont] 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. A[NN] R[IDGELY] DUPONT, Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY] and [EU]GENE [RIDGELY], Dover, Aug. 4, 1844.

"Willie" chides her sister for prepaying postage, and for writing so seldom. Asks about Mary's [duPont] trip to West Point. Mentions Mr. [William] Morris, "Aunty" [Mary B. Ridgely], and John McDowell. There has been more illness in and around Dover "than has been known for forty years". Alludes to a rabid political discussion involving eccentric old Mr. [William] Huffington ("Old Huff"), Major [Thomas] Stockton, Joshua Layton and others unnamed.

Eugene predicts the election of [James K.] Polk [as President] and [William] Tharp as Governor of Delaware over Major [Thomas Stockton].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], Aug. 5, 1844.

Has been to Cape May for his health. Met Mr. John B. Spotswood, "the Misses Black of Wilmington", Bishop [John] Johns of Virginia, Chancellor [Kensey] Johns, and Dr. . . . Stuart of Baltimore there. Alludes to a suggested change of profession, but believes he has "been thrown here by Providence" and that no change will occur. Will visit Maryland. Discusses church matters.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from MARY [DUPONT, West Point], N. Y., Aug. 25, 1844.

Tells of a hot and tiring train trip to New York and a subsequent pleasant boat ride up the Hudson. Is enjoying her visit near West Point. Describes a dance interrupted in the midst of a cotillion by the ten o'clock drum summoning the Cadets to bed. Makes plans for her return home. Inquires by name for the various duPont relatives. Finds it hard to tell the uniformed Cadets apart.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. ANN R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, from [MISS] ANNIE . . ., St. Mary's Cottage, Burlington, N. J., Aug. 26, 1844.

Thanks "dear Aunty" for her recent hospitality. Will return home to Washington [D. C.] with "Cousin John Ingle". Her family narrowly escaped injury in a recent accident. Mentions "Cousin Kate" . . ., "little Julia" . . ., and the members of the duPont family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover, Aug. 27, 1844.

Authorizes Mr. duPont to purchase a certain stove for Aunt [Mary B.] R[idgely] at \$5.00 if it is the size of her fireplace. Offers suggestions for shipping it. Mentions a threshing-machine of his own, now "at Urmy's" in Wilmington. Tells of his offer to secure a loan sought by Mrs. [Elizabeth, widow of Charles George] R[idgely], whose previous extravagance he criticizes. Their father was "amused at the idea of being made Judge in [Caleb S.] Layton's place" and refused to consider a Congressional nomination. He himself has declined two nominations. Discusses "poor [Thomas] Stockton", [William] Huffington, John Houston and George Riddle.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.7cm.

C[OLUMBUS] P. EVANS, [Wilmington], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington, c. September 1844].

Drafts a letter to the [*Delaware*] *Republican* correcting a misrepresentation of his views on the tariff being circulated in the campaign. Insists that protection assists farmers and workmen as well as manufacturers. Is certain Mr. [William] Huffington failed to understand the figures he is quoting in relation to Mr. duPont's own business, for they are completely erroneous.

The reverse side of the sheets contains a draft of a facetious report of a "Loco Foco Meeting at the Rising Sun" [on the Brandywine] at which Major [Thomas] Stockton [Whig candidate for Governor] was accused of fatally beating a deserter many years before. Ridicules the charges.

A. Df. U. 6 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

ANN R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, from VIRGINIA and [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, "Eden Hill", Del., [Oct.] 26, 1844.

Virginia acknowledges a letter of sympathy received after the death of her sister [Ruthanna Jump] to whom she was deeply attached. Alludes to the recent birth and death of her own daughter, and to a deep sorrow suffered by Mrs. . . . Reed.

Henry Ridgely adds that Father [Henry M. Ridgely] has recovered from a recent illness and that the family is well.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.7cm.

MRS. CH[ARLES] S [I.] DUPONT, Dover, from C[HARLES] I. D[UPONT], Wilmington, Oct. 29, [c. 1844].

Sends a package by stage. A "hive of honey" leaked on the way home, but by purchasing a tub in Smyrna he saved most of it. Completed arrangements with the child's mother to employ [servant lad] Lucien

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], Dec. 7, 1844.

Enjoyed a recent visit to Dover and Maryland. Mentions their father and Aunt [Mary] Ridgely. Feels Mary [Tilden] will make an excellent wife for a minister. "I would have her identified with myself in your love". After a week-end in Chambersburg, "I came with all the speed of the cars to Wilmington that evening . . ., a distance of about 200 miles, and the whole accomplished in one day. Truly we almost fly in these days of steam." Discusses his studies and religious topics. Mrs. [S.] Challenger is his landlady.

A. L. S. [S. torn] 4 pp. 19cm. x 24.7cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [near Wilmington], from DR. R[OBERT] M[ONTGOMERY] BIRD, New Castle, [Del.], Dec. 16, 1844.

Wishes to consult Mr. duPont at once on political matters. Fears the opposition may elect "the *Chevalier Sans*—everything but an infernal gang of madmen who are laboring . . . to break down the party and cut their own throats". [The allusion is apparently to Richard H. Bayard]. Chancellor [Kensy Johns, Jr.] also wishes to discuss the same subject.

A. L. S. 1p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

CHA[RLE]S I. DUPONT, Hall's Hotel, . . . [n. p.] from JA[ME]S CANBY, B[randy]wine, [Del.], Dec. 20, 1844.

Asks an opportunity to talk with Mr. duPont about the unwelcome movement to re-elect R[ichard] H. Bayard to the United States Senate instead of sending J[ohn] M. Clayton. Mentions . . . Roberts.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. ANNIE [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, "Louviers", [Wilmington], from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES B.] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., Dec. 31, 1844.

Appreciates her letter of condolence upon the recent sudden death of an aunt. Implores her to join the church at once. Is deeply worried about a brother[in-law] John [C.] Groome, who has also neglected confirmation, and is now gravely ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.5cm.

LOUISA [MRS. HENRY DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., c. 1845].

Offers to help nurse Louisa's children, whose continued illness worries her. Has had "much experience in sickrooms".

A. N. U. 2 pp. 9.7cm. x 12.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], from LOUISA [MRS. HENRY DUPONT, near Wilmington, c. 1845].

Acknowledges a gift of [infant's] shoes, "the prettiest little things of the kind I have ever seen".

A. N. S. 2 pp. 10cm. x 12.8cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Esq., [Wilmington], from C. H. FISHER, Phila[delphia], Jan. 10, 1845.

Reports that the [Delaware and Chesapeake] Canal Company is seeking the right to charge fares for passengers. Fears that privilege will injure the [New Castle-Frenchtown] railroad,

and asks Mr. duPont to do what he can to prevent any change in the companies' respective franchises. Messrs. [George P.] Fisher, [William M.] Day and [Samuel] Paynter are the legislative committee considering the bill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from [REV.] NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], Jan. 12, 1844 [1845].

Sends Mary duPont some books. Asks his sister to write to Miss [Mary] Tilden, for he hopes "the warmest possible attachment" will develop between her and his family. Refers to the legislative session and [Gov. William B.] Cooper's message.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 19.4cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from [MISS] MARY [DUPONT] and C[HARLES] I. D[U]P[ONT], "Louviers", Del., Jan. 12, 1845.

Mary reports that her father is better. Tells of visits "up the hill" and to "Rokeby" of "Cousin Ella's baby", "poor . . . Davis' baby", Catherine Wales, the Misses Prestman, Paulina [duPont], and "Willie" [Ridgely].

Mr. duPont says he obtained relief from a severe cold by taking "barley water and stewed quakers" and a dose of paregoric at night. Will avoid appearing before the Assembly as a witness in an election case until he has completed work on a contract for Kerseys. Discusses plans for coming to Dover.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], Feb. 21, 1845.

Is studying for Conference examinations and is pressed with the clerical work of the closing church year. Plans to visit Wilmington next week and Dover soon. Is distressed that Ann has not been confirmed. Refers to Miss [Mary] Tilden, and to Mr. [Rev. James] Nicols.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, from MARY [DUPONT], Washington, [D. C.], April 19, [c. 1845].

Describes the preparations for Annie Stevenson's wedding, with a "very large party" of about two hundred seventy guests. The bride's dress is French worked muslin, very expensive, "forty-five dollars I think", but not particularly "showy". Mentions Paulina and Victorine [duPont], Mrs. . . . Tomb, Aunt Sophie [duPont], and her own family.

A. L. S. [fragment] 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, near Haddington, Penna., May 24, 1845.

Regrets that he did not see Ann before leaving for his new charge. Bought her "Essential oil of bitter Almond", and a Testament as a gift for "Miss Maria". Likes his new situation and finds the country extremely beautiful. Mr. . . . Sacriste, whom she knows, has a factory in the vicinity. Refers to members of the Ridgely family. Discusses religion.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, c/o JOHN C. GROOME, and MRS. E. B. GROOME, Elkton, Md., from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., June 23, 1845.

Is willing for Ann to extend her visit. Mentions Mr. [John] Groome, E. W. Gilpin, [Miss] Eliza Mayers, Mary [duPont], "Willy" [Ridgely], and [the coachman] John.

Tells Mrs. Groome he is pleased with the plans and hopes she and Ann can visit more frequently in the future. Writes affectionately of his wife.

A. L. S. 1+1 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICH[OLAS] RIDGELY, Haddington, [Penna], Aug. 8, 1845.

Seldom hears from his family. Refers to Mrs. [Thomas] Davy and Miss Mary [Davy], "Willy" [Ridgely] and Dr. [William] Tilden. Wishes he could marry at once; "it is sometimes inconvenient to be poor". Hears Mr. [Charles] Marim has moved to Wilmington. Wishes he would edit one of the papers there instead of practicing law. Would like to take a Delaware paper but "under their present conductors I would scarcely pay the postage on any of them".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", near Wilmington, from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 22, 1845.

Reports her safe arrival after a dull trip on the *Kent*. Has delivered her sister's gifts to various members of the family. Mentions Purnell . . . , Mr. . . . Cooper, "Mammy" [Margaret], Aunt Mary Hillyard, Mr. Frank [Samuel Francis] duPont, and Mary, Frank, Victor, Paulina and Victorine [duPont]. "Gene [Eugene Ridgely] has shaved off his black goatees; he says he dyed them before he left home and could not get the dye off". Complains of her vision.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICH[OLAS] RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], Aug. 27, 1845.

Is attending a meeting of the Delaware Bible Society. Arranges to visit the duPonts. Mentions Miss . . . Black, an aunt of Mrs. [James] Couper, [Jr.].

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICH[OLAS] RIDGELY, near Haddington, [Penna.], Sept. 8, 1845.

Will start for Dover September 23. Plans to meet her at New Castle so they may travel together by steamboat. Hopes to complete arrangements for his marriage. Tells of a near-accident at Brandywine Bridge, while Mr. duPont's [Irish] coachman was driving on the left. Will bring a volume of [Sir Walter] Scott's poems.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA] RIDGELY], Dover, Oct. 2, 1845.

Is hurt and angry at an incident at home in connection with her request for \$10.00 for a "jet black silk" dress. Is anxious to see Anna. Refers to Charlie Belin's marriage, and to members of her own family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington [readdressed] Dover, from [REV.] NICHOLAS R[IDGEL]Y, Haddington, Penna., Oct. 14, 1845.

Enjoyed his visit to Dover and Maryland. Outlines tentative plans for his wedding in about two months. Saw Jonathan Jenkins Ridgely [infant son of Dr. Henry]. Is holding a "protracted meeting". Discusses other religious topics. Professor [Henry H.] Lockwood and Mr. [Howell J.] Terry were both recently married, giving "the good people of New Castle" a topic of conversation.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, c/o H. M. RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., Oct. 16, 1845.

Mentions a lamp glass, a cradle he was unable to find, and some of his sons' old clothes to give "one of our Factory Boys who is working among wet cloth in summer attire". Tells of Victor's [duPont] activities.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. A. R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY] and [MISS] MARY [DUPONT], Dover, Nov. 9, [c. 1845].

Williamina reports the social events of recent days, mentioning Mrs. [Ann] Sipple, Mr. . . . Houston, Mrs. . . . Reed, "Miss Betty", Jim Douglass, Mrs. . . . Austin and her small daughter, Mrs. . . . Harrington, little Annie [Harrington?], and members of her own family.

Mary sends word that she has discouraged the attentions of a certain young gentleman, as her father wished, though she herself thought it quite unnecessary. Describes a child's blue and white checked cloak that would be becoming to Amy [duPont], asks that her own cloak be sent down if it turns cold, makes arrangement for her return, and tells of little Douglas Comegy's narrow escape from being run over.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. and "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 28, [1845].

Mr. Ridgely has just shipped a barrel of flour to the duPonts via Neal & Barratt, Philadelphia, and promises one of corn meal as soon as the grain is dry. "Willy" misses Mary [duPont] and hopes she arrived without ill effects from her cold trip home from Dover. Mentions Virginia [Ridgely], Emma Parker and Aunt Mary [Mary B. Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Dec. 22, [c. 1845].

Tells of shirts, stockings, a comforter and a baby jacket to be made, a needed half yard of black fringe, a gift of Lady Cake, and other household matters. Refers to Mary, Charles Jr., Victor, Aimee and Paulina [duPont], [Manlove] Hayes, Dr. [Gove] Saulsbury, Miss Elizabeth Lemans of Maryland who is to be married soon, the Bishop [Alfred Lee], and Henry, Virginia, "Sonny" [Jonathan], Eugene, [Henry M. and Sallie A] Ridgely. Asks if Nicholas [Ridgely] is married yet. Mentions Mrs. Charles Belin, the birth of Mrs. George Fisher's daughter, Mr. . . . Morris' devotion to "Gell" Read at "the Bazaar Ball in Philadelphia", Dr. [Isaac] Jump's prospective marriage, the deaths of Mary Stevenson and "Old Miss Prudy", and a report that Aunt Mary [Hillyard] is "doing very well".

A. L. S. 5 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Haddington, Penna., Feb. 10, 1846.

Is preparing for his final examinations at the approaching Conference. Refers to the events of a recent trip with Mary [Ridgely, his bride] to Dover, Wilmington, New Castle and Philadelphia. Met Miss [Mary] Bateman, Charles Marim and Mrs. [John C.] Groome. Mentions "the string . . . that very necessary appendage to a veil", and "the ladies' apartment" on the train to Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Feb. 15, 1846.

Refers to Ann's recent illness. Denies that she is engaged to Mr. [Alexander] Johnson, assuring her sister she would never marry without her consent. Speaks of her affection for Mary [duPont]. Also mentions "Aunt" [Mary B. Ridgely], Jim Douglass, Nicholas [Ridgely] and wife, her father and stepmother. Wants the "gumelastic tooth ring" sent for [Jonathan Jenkins Ridgely] one of the most beautiful babies she ever saw. Tells of children born to Mrs. . . . Murphy and the former Mary Kerbin. Has but two good dresses, one silk, the other alpaca, and no cloak.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, March 3, 1846.

There has been much illness, with many sudden deaths during the long, dull winter. With her stepmother, has "made up more than a hundred yards of muslin in shirts and other things since Christmas". Several of the family plan visits to Philadelphia and "the Brandywine". Discusses "Mr. Douglass' bird", and Dr. [Gove] Saulsbury's prospective bride. Mentions Virginia and Henry [Ridgely], Victor and Mary [duPont], the Breck children, Mr. Frame, and "Mary Liz" Smithers.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover], from C[HARLES] I. D[U]PONT, Wilmington, c. April 1846].

Is pleased with the election for [U. S.] Senator although he regrets that "political reasons" required the replacement of "Tho[ma]s Clayton, who has shown such roman virtue in his votes when a principle is involved". Refers to "the Court House Clique" and the unpopularity of "such men as Dr. . . . Black, . . . Driver & . . . Wolfe". Urges hiring a competent white

nurse to care for [Henry M. Ridgely] since he is no longer gravely ill and neither his wife nor his daughters should attend him constantly.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from [MRS.] JULIA L. SHUBRICK, Wilmington, April 3, 1846.

Sympathizes with Ann's anxiety about her father. Wishes Amy [duPont] had been left with her. Mrs. James [A.] Bayard is preparing to move into her new house; alludes to a "bitter sorrow she has endured". Is anxious to hear from "our sailors" who left Pensacola [Florida] for Rio [de Janiero, Brazil] four months ago. Refers to Sophie [Mrs. S. F. duPont].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, and "WILLIE" [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], c/o H. M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] MARY [DUPONT] and [MISS] AIMIE [AMELIA ELIZABETH DUPONT], "Louviers", Del., April 8, 1846.

Mary sympathizes with her stepmother's concern for [H. M. Ridgely], and tells of household affairs. [Four-year-old] Aimie delights in the sandpile at the back door; started to dance the polka to the organ in church; and imitated the Bishop's every gesture during his sermon, to her sister's embarrassed amusement. A rolling-mill explosion the previous night shook the house badly but broke no glass. Paulina [duPont] "got a petite drawn silk bonnet loaded with flowers and costing *ten dollars*". Shad is now as cheap in Wilmington as at Dover. Complains of [servant] Lucian.

To "Willie", expresses her sympathy and extends an invitation to visit Wilmington as soon as Mr. Ridgely improves. Chats about Marie Comegys' engagement, lectures certain young members of the family have received on "Brandywine propriety", and fortunetellers's predictions. Doubts she will ever marry. Mentions Victorine [duPont], "Lizzie R.", [Commander & Mrs. S. F. duPont], Aunt Julia and Uncle Irvin [Shubrick].

Amie sends an affectionate message to her mother, her hand guided by Mary.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, [Penna.], April 17, 1846.

Is distressed to learn of their father's illness. Has just been assigned a charge in Phoenixville, an "irregularly built" town of about seventeen hundred population on the Schuylkill River and the Reading Railroad.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS R[IDGELY], Dover, April 22, 1846.

Father [Henry M. Ridgely] is better, though he is still weak and is much changed by his illness. Thinks he has too many visitors. Regrets that his own professional duties keep him so separated from his family. "Dover has sadly changed since we left it." Mentions the *Kent*, Dr. and Mrs. [James] Couper, [Jr.], Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely, Mrs. Henry Lockwood, "poor Mrs. [Ann] Sipple" and "the late bereavement" of Mrs. . . . Pennewill.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, April 29, [1846].

Their father gains little strength, though he has some encouraging days. Tells of a visit from Nicholas and Mary [Ridgely], a call from Ann Eliza Emerson, and a tea at Mrs. . . . Harrington's, where she felt very well dressed in her "mouseleine de leine". Also mentions Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lockwood, members of the Ridgely family, Mrs. [James] Couper, [Jr.], Lydia Harrington, Ann Eliza Dean, Dr. and Mrs. . . . Thompson, Mr. John W. Houston and the death of old Mr. Kimmey.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, c. May 1846].

[H. M.] Ridgely is improving. "Mammy" [Margaret] was critically ill on Sunday, but is now a little better. "Aunty" [Mary B. Ridgely] also seems to be failing. A message to Mary [duPont] refers playfully to mutual friends in Wilmington. Believes Ned [Ridgely] has been cured of oversleeping by having his breakfast set in the kitchen where he refused to eat a mouthful of it. Plans to help Ann with her sewing when she comes up. Suggests she ask for Mr. . . . Sipple's "black boy Jack" if he breaks up housekeeping.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., May 5, 1846.

Still worries about Father [H. M. Ridgely]. Hopes his apparent mental deterioration will disappear as he recovers strength. Mentions his own plans for housekeeping, and the possibility that father may assist him financially, since he never had help previously. Found much illness "on the Peninsula".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm x 24.6cm

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [MISS] [WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, May 7, 1846.

Acknowledges a small sum of money. Discusses patterns, plans for sewing, and visits four of the family hope to make at the duPont home soon. Jests that she herself may "get another grey hound puppy to make me more welcome [at "Louviers"]". Thinks Manlove Hayes a very "stiff" young man. Comments on the death of Dr. [Joseph] Maull, bringing into office the third Governor "in less than a year". Mentions George Fisher, members of the Ridgely family, Mrs. . . . Jump, "the Grimshaws", and [servant] Lucian. Judge Tomkins, husband of Mary Keyton, died suddenly.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Phoenixville, Penna., May 9, 1846.

Gratefully acknowledges an unexpected loan toward the expenses of starting housekeeping. Believes his wife ideally suited to the religious life. Recalls their own mother with deep affection, contrasting her sadly with their father's second wife. Writes of [Dr.] Henry, Virginia and "Sonny" [Jonathan Ridgely], of his own plans for the near future, and of Dr. [Joseph] Maull's death.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Phoenixville, Penna., May 25, [18]46.

Tells why he plans to rent a house in Phoenixville and to ask his father for financial help for the first time. Recently visited "Moore Hall", in beautiful rolling country between Pickering Creek and Schuylkill River. Is gathering information about the Moore family. Sent "Willy" [Ridgely] a long account of the trip, knowing father and Aunt [Mary] Morris were interested in their mother's [Ann (Moore) Ridgely] girlhood home. Complains of unseasonable heat.

[A memorandum on the cover notes, in Ann (Ridgely) duPont's hand, that H. M. Ridgely recommended "the chapter in the *Spectator* on immortality of the soul" to his children when he was dying.]

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, June 12, 1846.

Enjoyed a recent visit to "Louviers", which has benefitted Father [H. M. Ridgely]. Discusses the weather and casual family concerns. Refers to a "large feather fan", and to "molasses

candy with nuts in it". Mentions members of her own family; "Aunty" [Mary B. Ridgely]; "Mammy" [Margaret]; Mrs. [James] Couper, [Jr.]; Mary, Victorine and Frank [duPont]; Dr. [Arthur H.] Grimshaw; Mr. . . . Sipple and Hester [Sipple?]; Mrs. Charles G. Ridgely and her sons; and Aunt [Mary] Morris.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from VIRGINIA and [DR.] H[ENRY RIDGELY], "Eden Hill", Del., June 13, [c. 1846].

Has been busy "unpacking and packing again" after returning from a pleasant visit to Wilmington and Philadelphia. "Sonny" [Jonathan Ridgely] is well and mischievous. Refers to Brandywine Springs' reputation as a health resort and to her own mother's effort to spare her every exertion.

Henry adds a postscript referring to extensive rearrangements in their house. Father [H. M. Ridgely] seems better but Aunt [Mary B.] R[idgely] is not well.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS R[IDGELY], Phoenixville, [Penna.], June 23, 1846.

Does not regret relinquishing his earlier ambitions in favor of the ministry. Wishes his friends could know the satisfaction he and his wife find in his work. Thinks at least \$200.00 will be necessary to "furnish even a small house comfortably". Prefers "no little self-denial" to borrowing if his father will not help him. Asks advice about tableware. Refers to his wife's family. Is proud of her success with currant jelly, preserved cherries and "a pair of pantaloons". Mentions their stepmother [Mrs. H. M. Ridgely], and "Moore Hall".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, July 2, [c. 1846].

Tells of the Fourth of July plans, with the Odd Fellows and Sunday School parading in the morning, speechmaking at the State House, and a Sunday School program at the Methodist Church in the afternoon to be followed by a picnic in the woods. [H. M. Ridgely] is still very weak. Fears he is no longer able to care properly for his business. Spent a very "stiff" evening at tea with Mrs. . . . Luff, Cele Richards, Mrs. John Richards and Mrs. . . . Comegys. George Fisher has bought the Frames' house. Mentions Nicholas [Ridgely], members of the duPont family, Mrs. William Morris, Anna Maria [Morris], Mrs. [Isaac] Jump, and Emma Parker.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., July 27, 1846.

Describes a shopping trip. Silver, "waiters", china and blankets were among their satisfactory purchases. He and Mary are happy in their new home, and pleased at the helpfulness of their parishioners. His sister-in-law will soon visit them. Likes "the little silver spoons" which remind him of "the last century and . . . those who have long since passed away".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Aug. 4, [c. 1846].

Is delighted with "the beautiful undersleeves and cape" that have just arrived as a gift from Ann. Thinks "Sonny" [Jonathan J. Ridgely] "perfect" and is not surprised that he is idolized. The family plans to go to Cedar Beach near Milford, [Del.] where the bathing is good. Asks about Mary duPont's trip to Cape May, [New Jersey]. Refers to Mr. . . . Culbreth and Mary Frame, Dr. and Mrs. [Isaac] Jump who are deeply disappointed about "another miscarriage", Mr. . . . Gilpin, their brothers Nicholas and Ned, Virginia [Ridgely] and the duPont family. Supposes Dr. Henry [Ridgely] has told her "all about the ice cream shop" and other Dover news. Fears Mr. duPont would be "shocked" at this letter.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Aug. 11, 1846.

Fears she has distressed her sister by a letter she wrote while "gloomy" over the poor health of their father and "Aunt" [Mary B. Ridgely]. Both seem better now. Her friend Mary Bateman has been suddenly stricken with consumption or its forerunner.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, c/o H. M. RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., Aug. 21, 1846.

Urges his wife to stay in Dover until she has rested from her recent exhausting care of her father. Quotes prices of corn and wheat, urging prompt sale of any Mr. [H. M.] Ridgely still holds. Mentions Mary [duPont], Commodore [Jacob] Jones, Mrs. . . . Boyd, Frank Shubrick, Mr. [William] Breck, and most of the members of his own family. Jokes of [John M.] Clayton, who thinks "the loco focos have had their course", becoming President, with Dr. [Robert Montgomery] Bird a cabinet member and himself a successful bidder for "a large Kersey con-

Know all men by these Presents, That
it is hereby mutually agreed by, and between the United States, by the
Agency of *Henry Stanton*, Ass't. Quartermaster General and
Charles I du Pont & Co of Wilmington Del Manufacturers

that the said *Charles I du Pont & Co*
shall and will manufacture and deliver, within *Eight Months* from the date
hereof

*Two thousand five hundred yards of 1/4 Dark blue
Kersey at one dollar & thirty five cents per yard & Sixty thousand
yards of 1/4 Sky blue Kersey at one dollar & twenty three cents per yard
to be like and equal in shade of color, quality of materials, weight
workmanship and finish and all other respects to the patterns
in this office in which this contract is founded, and to be
delivered in pieces from twenty five to thirty yards in length.*

Which *Goods they are* to deliver at the Arsenal of the United States
on Schuylkill, _____

*in monthly or larger quantities if required. In case of failure
on the part of the Contractors, the Ass't. Quartermaster General reserves the right to pur-
=chase in the market at the expiration of each month, whatever quantity may be there
due by the Contractors, charging them with any difference in the price of such
purchases over & above those stipulated in this contract.*

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, That the price of the said *Goods* _____
is and shall be _____

as above stated.

money of the United States, and payable to the amount of each and every Parcel
delivered *as above* after *strict inspection* by a person, or
persons, to be appointed for that purpose by the United States, and after such
Inspector shall Certify that the said *Goods have passed inspection*

It is expressly conditioned, that no Member of Congress is, or shall be
admitted, to any share or part of this Contract, or agreement, or to any benefit
to arise therefrom.

WITNESS the hand of the said *Ass't. Quartermaster General* _____
and the Hand and Seal of the said *Cha^s I du Pont & Co* _____
this *First* day of *December* A. D. 18*46*.

Sealed and Delivered in }
presence of }

James M. Allen
J. M. Allen

Henry Stanton
Arthur M. G.
Charles I du Pont & Co



CONTRACT BETWEEN QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT AND
CHARLES I. DUPONT FOR 2500 YARDS OF DARK BLUE KERSEY CLOTH,
DECEMBER 1, 1846

tract" through which "we might . . . die rich yet", employ French instead of Irish cooks and go "to Newport [Rhode Island] to recreate a little". Concludes, "it is really unfashionable to love one another as we do".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[CHARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [MISS] MARY [DUPONT], Cape May, [N. J., late summer, c. 1846].

Cape May is dull. Her only acquaintances there are Chancellor and Mrs. [Kensy] Johns, [Jr.], Miss Sally Black, Mr. and Mrs. [John C.] Groome, Mary Truman, Dan Lammot, Mr. . . . Gilpin and . . . Latimer. The strangers are uninteresting. Refers to her own health, various members of the family, a dangerous undertow, and to the new and old Atlantic Hotel and the Mansion House.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 9, 1846.

The invalids are all improving. Has discouraged Jim Clayton's suit as Mary [duPont] did Manlove Hayes' Mentions Anna Eliza [Hayes], Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. . . . Comegys and Jim Douglass with an allusion to a trip to Canada and a wedding journey. Asks about a "pliant".

A. L. S. 5 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, c/o H. M. RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Wilmington, Dec. 30, 1846.

Trusts Henry M. Ridgely is much better. Refers to bonbons and gifts for New Years. Irvine [Shubrick] has returned to Norfolk because of damage to the *Saratogo* at Cape Horn. Frank [S. F. duPont] is well. Mentions their wives Julia [Shubrick] and Sophie [duPont], others of the duPont family, and various housekeeping details. Expresses his affectionate appreciation of his own wife.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

REV. E. W. GILBERT, Delaware College, Newark, Del., from [CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. 1847).

Asks Mr. Gilbert to correct the surely erroneous impression that Delaware College opposes chartering St. Mary's College. Though himself a Trustee of Delaware College, he is supporting the St. Mary's Bill. Believes Catholic families are entitled to educate their sons as they prefer, that the proposed school will not grant degrees loosely, and that it will serve students who would in no case enroll at Newark. "Mr. Chambers' Military

Institute" was refused the right to grant degrees because it did not have proper facilities, but St. Mary's expects five instructors, all college graduates, and a student body of two hundred. Suggests "requiring a faculty of four or five, a majority of whom shall be graduates, before degrees can be legally conferred" to safeguard academic standards.

A. Df. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Phoenixville, Penna., Jan. 29, 1847.

Rejoices that a misunderstanding between them has been removed. Acknowledges a gift of spoons, and refers to others, an heirloom intended for Amie [duPont]. Has been intensely busy. Phoenixville has one of the largest rolling-mills in the United States, covering nearly an acre, which manufactures "Rail Road iron". The rapidly growing town handles a heavy business, but is unattractive, with its "small [houses] thrown up hastily and designed almost exclusively for the laboring classes". He has found a "pleasant though limited" social circle. Refers to Sarah [Tilton] and his own son [Henry M. Ridgely, II].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MISS] MARY [DUPONT], New York, [N. Y.] Feb. 17, 1847.

Is enjoying a busy visit in Brooklyn and New York. Describes Peter Kemble, their host's son. Tells of numerous dinners, parties and dances. Saw the opera she had read of in *The Young Prima Donna*. Precocious Charlotte Lamar is so delicate she is glad Aimie [duPont, barely five years old] has not learned to read. Considers the young men in New York uniformly conceited and "much too free and easy to agree with my sense of Brandywine propriety". Polkas are "all the rage", and "the ceremony of asking ladies to waltz seems obsolete as the gentleman advances and with the utmost sang froid puts his arm entirely around the lady's waist, in which way they remain often ten minutes till the prelude is over". Likes Mr. Lamar. Mrs. [Edward] Gillilan has been cordial. Hopes Tom [Thomas B. Shubrick], of whom she is fond, can escort her and her cousins home, or that Victor [duPont] will do so, for "three girls and six trunks" would be a great burden to inflict upon a casual acquaintance. Trinity Church is beautiful but has poor acoustics. Visited the "new steam packet", *Sarah Sands*.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MISS] WILL[IAMINA RIDGELY], Dover, Feb. 19, 1847.

Is engaged to the kindly Mr. [Alexander] J[ohnson]. He promises either to move from Marshy Hope or to make his home there suitable for her. Begs Ann to visit Dover, if only briefly. Inquires about Mary's [duPont] trip.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.], from [MISS] M[ARY DUPONT, Brooklyn, N. Y., post Feb. 20, 1847].

Is not surprised by "Willy's" [Ridgely] decision, and believes she will be happy. Speaks of Mrs. . . . Lamar, Peter [Kemble], a pleasant party, an invitation to see "the Veonese [Viennese] children" dance, and plans for her return.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.5cm. x 21.3cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MISS MARY DUPONT], Brooklyn, N. Y., Feb. 24, [1847].

Her two weeks' stay with the Kembles is one of the happiest periods away from home she remembers. Refers to Ellen, Mag, Molly and Peter Kemble. Believes the excitement of sleighing, parties and other amusements is good for her. Is now visiting Mr. and Mrs. . . . Lamar. Discusses plans for her return.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 17cm. x 21.8cm

ANN R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, "Louviers", Wilmington, from VIRGINIA E. [MRS. HENRY] RIDGELY, "Eden Hill", Del., [March] 8, 1847.

Her family was fascinated by a "curious present" from Ann, which used "machinery" and a candle to produce the effect Thomas Kirkley called "rale quare". Rejoices that Ann approves "Willy's" engagement, for Mr. [Alexander] Johnson is respected everywhere. Is sorry she will be a farmer's wife with all that station entails. "Sonny" [Jonathan Ridgely] was unhurt in a fall downstairs. Speaks of her own husband and of Ann's family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS R[IDGEL]Y, Phoenixville, Penna., March 15, 1847.

It has been a cross to be unable to join the family when their father's recurrent attacks have brought the others together. Wishes he could bring his wife and son to Conference in Wilmington. Expects no new assignment, feeling that his work in Phoenixville is successful and appreciated. "A more truly prosperous place I never saw. I have frequent occasion to contrast

the thriving business and prosperous character of these Pennsylvania villages with the dull, heavy, lifeless aspect of our Peninsula towns". Hopes the duPonts can soon visit him. Mentions a new paper, *Pioneer*.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.3cm.

[MRS. HELEN RUFF, n. p.], from A[NN] R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], March 15, 1847.

Tells her cousin of Henry M. Ridgely's protracted illness, the gentle spirit he has shown, and his suffering during a recent seizure the family feared would be fatal. His wife proved a devoted and selfless nurse. Thomas B. Shubrick was killed in naval action before Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. The handsome, charming, gifted young officer was a general favorite. Quotes from a letter of condolence from his commanding officer, Captain Slidell Mackensie, U. S. S. *Mississippi*. Describes an explosion at the powder mills the previous morning, which killed several workmen and damaged all nearby houses. At "Louviere" there is but one habitable room, "made so by carpets and blankets nailed to the windows". The family all escaped injury. Mr. duPont has declined appointment to the United States Senate because of urgent contracts; he might accept if the offer were ever made again.

A. Df. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, [Penna.], April 13, 1847.

Regrets the separation from his family his profession imposes. A new and larger house is almost ready for his occupancy. Acknowledges a gift to his son Henry Moore [Ridgely]. Speaks of his wife and [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., May 20, 1847.

Refers to "Willy's" [Ridgely] coming marriage to [Alexander] Johnson, "a man of imminently tender feelings, kind and gentle". Discusses the religious aspect of marriage. Plans to reach Dover via the steamboat *Kent* from New Castle. Hopes for visits from his family and friends in his own home. Mentions his wife, their son, and Miss [Mary] Bateman.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Dover, from [CHARLES I. DUPONT], "Louviers", Del., June 4, 1847.

Refers to "Willy's" approaching marriage, her amusing enthusiasm over her gifts, his own improving health, casual family matters and a trip they plan to Phoenixville and Reading or to Harper's Ferry. The "Honey" strawberries are exceptionally large. Alludes to a "telegraph reporter's" error in delivering a message.

A. L. U. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

ANNIE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover], from C[CHARLES] I. DUP[ONT], "Louviers", [Del.], June 9, 1847.

Playfully scolds his wife for a letter questioning whether he still loves her. Wishes Williamina happiness in her marriage to [Alexander] Johnson, of whom he thinks highly. Recalls his own "conviction that I had made a choice I had reason to be proud of, & that a lovely woman was to share & unite in all my cares, trouble & pleasure; I say if he feels as I did then, and do now, he is a happy man". Alludes to the [Thomas M.] Smiths, Mrs. [Victorine] Bauduy, others of his family, to a scandal involving Miss . . . Polk, and to the illness of "Sonny" [Jonathan Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover], from [CHARLES I. DUPONT], "Louviers", [Del.], June 11, 1847.

Fears his affectionate reprimand may be taken too seriously. Inquires about the wedding, and tells of the fine strawberries, his wife's roses, [Amie duPont's] puppy, John Comegys' progress at the [Farmers] Bank, and Mrs. [Mary] Hillyard's appreciation of a gift.

A. L. U. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, from [MISS] MARY [DUPONT], Wilmington, June 17, [1847].

Urges her to hurry home lest she or Aimee [duPont] catch erysipelas in Dover. Father [Charles I. duPont] is not well. Was pleased with the description of "Willie's" [Johnson] wedding. Mentions Victor [duPont] and [Rev.] Nicholas [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MRS. [CHARLES] I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from EDWARD [RIDGELY], Dover, June 20, [1847].

Reports [H. M. Ridgely] is about as usual, "Sonny" [Jonathan Ridgely] seems better [at Lewes, Delaware] and the others are well. Mentions Henry, Eugene and Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely, "Willie" [Johnson] and Mr. [Charles I.] duPont, who has been ill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 24.7cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from ELIZABETH [MRS J. C. GROOME, Elkton, Md.,] July . . . , [1847].

Her long silence has not been caused by indifference, but by her duties as the mother of five small children, complicated by moving into an unfinished house while still convalescent from an illness and suffering from neuralgia. Before the moving was completed the children had measles, and guests arrived for a month's visit. Tells the news of her family, inquires about "Willie's [Mrs. Alexander Johnson] wedding, and invites the duPonts to her new home. Complains that the house has cost above \$7000 instead of the estimated \$6000, and is not finished. "The bathroom is still unfurnished with a bath tub, etc.", a great inconvenience in such hot weather, "as I have had to resort twice a day to a washing tub". Must have a nerve killed before an aching tooth can be filled.

Mr. Groome adds a note to Mr. duPont, repeating his wife's invitation.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, July 11, [1847].

"Sonny" [Jonathan Jenkins Ridgely] died Friday evening and will be buried in the Quaker Burying Ground at Camden [Delaware]. Gives news of their father, "Willy" [Johnson] and [Rev.] Nicholas [Ridgely] and his wife. The Act relating to the New Castle Marsh can be found only in the Secretary of State's office; "Mr. [Daniel M.] Bates is not now home, however".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Phoenixville, Penna., July 14, [18]47.

Was shocked at the death of "Jonty" [Jonathan Jenkins Ridgely]. Scarcely knows how to offer condolence. Urges his sister not to postpone her visit beyond Monday. The "Reading cars which leave the corner of Broad and Vine Streets every morning at 9 o'clock" will bring her to Phoenixville by eleven, or she can come by "the Norristown cars" leaving 9th & Green Streets at three in the afternoon, though the stage connection for the last ten miles is uncomfortable. Mr. . . . Buck, owner of one of the great iron plants, has been very kind to him, though unconnected with his congregation.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, July 26, 1847.

Acknowledges his sister's note of condolence. [Jonathan] had improved so much at Lewistown [Lewes] that everyone except his mother thought he would recover until cholera infantum developed about a week before his death. Religious reflections offer him and his wife their only comfort. Father [Henry M. Ridgely] is failing rapidly. Under Dr. [Isaac] Jump's care he has been bled three times in five weeks to ward off threatened attacks, and is being given digitalis and "a preparation of iron". Is now suffering from "a very severe diarrhea". Mentions members of the family and Col. . . . Cooper.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON], Dover, July 31, [1847].

[Henry M. Ridgely] is alarmingly weak after a relapse. Miss Marie Lowry is recovering at "New Ark", [Delaware?] from a serious illness.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from [REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Phoenixville, Penna., Aug. 5, 1847.

Is surprised to hear that Ann is in Dover. Worries over recent accounts of their father's condition. Has received a letter from Aunt [Mary] Morris giving information about the Moore family. Recalls the afternoon he and his sister spent together at "Moore Hall", suggesting that she urge others of the family to visit it. Likes the feeling of association with one's ancestors that comes from contact with things and places they once knew. Refers to his wife, his son Henry [M. Ridgely], Amie [duPont] and Mr. [C. I.] duPont.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Dover, from C[HARLES] I. DUP[ONT], Wilmington, Aug. 5, 1847.

Inquires about Mr. Ridgely's progress, urges his wife to guard her health, and gives the news of the household. Promises to visit the Johnsons in the fall to feast on terrapin and oysters. Suggests that Ann "take a few blue pills & drink snake root. It will do you no harm and may prevent sickness".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Esq., ["Louviers", near Wilmington], from S[AMUEL] M. HARRINGTON, Dover, Aug. 6, 1847.

Informs him of the death of Mr. [Henry M.] Ridgely, "this afternoon about 3 o'clock". Tells of Mrs. duPont's reactions to her father's death and encloses a letter from her. He is making arrangements for the funeral of his early friend and preceptor.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 27cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover], from C[HARLES] I. D[U]PONT, Wilmington, post Aug. 6, 1847].

Wishes his wife to do whatever she believes will most quickly reconcile her to her father's death. Promises to send "the [*Delaware*] *Journal* of yesterday with [Charles] Marim's notice".

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. JAMES COUPER, JR., New Castle, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES L. DUPONT, Wilmington, post. Aug. 6, 1847].

Appreciates her friend's sympathy following [H. M. Ridgely's] death. Alludes to the long friendship between Mr. Ridgely and Mrs. Couper's father [James R. Black] and to the similarity of their deaths. Describes her father's final hours. Takes comfort in recalling his splendid life, his courage during his tedious, painful illness, and the faith in immortality that sustained him. Mentions the members of the Ridgely family, her own husband and child, E[lizabeth] Groome, Sarah [Young], and Judge [Samuel] Harrington.

A. Df. U. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 25cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover], from ELEUTHERE [DUPONT, near Wilmington, post. Aug. 6, 1847].

Sympathizes with Ann's sorrow and grieves for a "kind friend of many years". Illness alone prevented his coming to Dover.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 10cm. x 16cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Esq., ["Louviers", near Wilmington], from S[AMUEL] M. HARRINGTON, Dover, Aug. 9, 1847.

Sends a short obituary notice of Mr. Henry M. Ridgely and encloses a resolution of the members of the Bar (see next entry).

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 27cm.

[RIDGELY FAMILY, Dover], from SAMUEL M. HARRINGTON, GEORGE P. FISHER, SAXE GOTHALAWS, Esquires, a Committee of the Bar, Dover, Aug. 7, 1847.

A resolution on the death of Henry M. Ridgely, Esq. Signed by Martin W. Bates, Chairman, and Philip Culbreth, Secretary.

A. D. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25cm. [Enclosed with entry above]

CHARLES I. DUPONT, [no address], from S[AMUEL M.] HARRINGTON, Dover, August 9, 1847.

Transmits a resolution of the Bar on the death of Henry M. Ridgely, suggesting that the family may wish to include it in the obituary notice.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18cm. x 25.5cm. [Enclosure]

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Aug. 11, 1847.

Tom's [Thomas B. Shubrick] body will reach Wilmington tomorrow, lie in state at "Mr. Riley's [Rev. Patrick Riley] church" and then be brought with military guard to the family burying ground. Speaks of obituary notices of [Henry M. Ridgely] prepared by Judge [Samuel] Harrington and Charles Marim which will appear in the *Delaware Republican*, *Delaware Journal* and [*Delaware*] *Gazette*. Much sympathy has been expressed since her father's death. Mentions Mary and [Amie duPont], Dr. . . . Smith, Midshipman . . . Smith and Commodore [Matthew C.] Perry. Misses his wife but thinks it wise for her to stay in Dover as long as she wishes.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover], from [MRS.] JULIA L. S[HUBRICK], Wilmington, [Aug.] 14, [1847].

Extends condolence on the death of Ann's father, Henry M. Ridgely and sends messages of sympathy from [Mrs.] Amelia [duPont] and Alicia [Shubrick]. Mary [duPont] has been ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from [MISS] MARY [DUPONT], Wilmington, Aug. 16, [1847].

Offers condolence on the death of [Henry M. Ridgely]. Gives an account of Amie [duPont] and mentions other members of the Ridgely and duPont families.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from [REV.] NICHOLAS R[IDGELY], Phoenixville, Penna., Aug. 18, 1847.

Acknowledges a gift of a "baby jumper" for his son. Alludes to their father's death. Discusses religious topics. Hopes "Willy" [Johnson] will visit Phoenixville and "the old family mansion [Moore Hall]" before returning from her next trip to "Louviere". Asks if their mother "used to wrap [butter] in the inside husk of corn and put it in pickle". His wife found packing in salt alone unsatisfactory last winter.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from V. [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], Parker's Island, . . . [post Aug. 1847].

Finds "Willie" [Johnson] is "a perfect pet" with her husband's family. The couple appear much in love. Describes Mrs. [Elizabeth] Johnson and Mary [Johnson]. Hopes Ann has recovered from her illness.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Phoenixville, Penna., Autumn 1847].

Sends a rough draft of a family record from the first American generation to and including Mary (Wyncoop) Ridgely, first wife of Dr. Charles Greenberry Ridgely, and a brief sketch of Henry M. Ridgely. Asks for his sister's comment.

[On the same sheet is a characterization of Henry M. Ridgely in the hand of Ann duPont.]

A. L. S. 6 pp. 19.6cm. x 25.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", near Wilmington, from M[ARY, MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, [Del.] Aug. 26, 1847.

Sympathizes with Ann's grief. Comforts her with the recollection that she was not only a dutiful daughter, but a friend, to her father [H. M. Ridgely], and that he was happy in seeing both his daughters married to men he admired. Inquires about the other members of the Ridgely family. Mentions her sister Sarah [Young] and the latter's children.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from REV.] NICHOLAS R[IDGELY], Phoenixville, [Penna.], Sept. 7, 1847.

Discusses obligations of the ministry and his own and Ann's religious experience. Alludes to the disposition of their father's property, regretting the "entire passing out of our family of all the furniture, the plate, and even the silver". Is delighted with his son's development.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 11, 1847.

Likes "Willy's" [Johnson] home, her husband's family, and her general surroundings. Asks Ann to encourage her to accept the less favorable part of the environment happily. Admires Miss Mary Ann [Johnson]. "My next 'concern' as the Friends say, is about Eugene [Ridgely]; we really must make the child

marry, even if we have to compel him, bound hand & foot. How is he to get along, as regards his happiness, his comfort, or that other next important matter, his purse, without a wife?" Believes the entire family will have cause for pride in studious, ambitious Edward [Ridgely]. Thinks they should all help him in any way necessary. When [Mammy] Margaret received certain wages due her, she lent Edward \$140 of it, secured by bond, to outfit him for school. Considers it a sound investment for the aged servant, who "was very much pleased with the idea of being the means of educating Ned, for he has been her pet for many years, you know". Wants Ann to oversee the boy's schooling at Mr. [Patrick] Reilly's [St. Mary's College], and to try to improve his posture. Gives directions for the marble slab for their father's grave. [Mrs.] Sally Ann [Ridgely] has been very co-operative. Discusses finances of the estate.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 7, 1847.

Sends an advertisement of the sale of "Fox Hall" and the Duck Creek farm for publication in the *Journal*. Asks advice on the terms of sale, the minimum price, and the advisability of dividing the Duck Creek property. The "Draper" farm" is rented until 1849.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover, Oct. 15, 1847.

Is pleased that Mr. duPont is coming to Dover. Insists that all adult heirs give him advice on the disposal of their father's real estate, so that he may offer buyers a bargain all parties will accept. Will refuse to act as agent on any other terms. Explains certain details about the properties.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS R[IDGELY], Phoenixville, [Penna.], Oct. 21, 1847.

Discusses the settlement of their father's estate. Outlines a plan for purchasing the Draper farm, giving his reasons for wishing to own it. Harry [Ridgely] is beginning to walk. Mentions their brother, "Willy" [Johnson], and Mary [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.9cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from REV.] NICHOLAS R[IDGELY], Phoenixville, Penna., Nov. 4, 1847.

Discusses selling "Fox Hall". Suggests exchanging his share of the "Linden" farm for Eugene's [Ridgely] interest in the Draper farm. Is trying to obtain paper of the proper size to copy the family record for Ann.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Dover], Nov. 7, 1847.

Regrets that objections to selling "Fox Hall" were not made before the land was advertised. Still thinks it wise to sell, since the widow's life estate prevents efficient management and the farm will be worthless if long neglected.

[An extract copied by Ann duPont from a letter of Nov. 11 reports unsatisfactory bids were received for the "Fox Hall" and Duck Creek farms. Is willing to abandon the idea of selling the former. Mentions Sally Ann Ridgely.]

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.6cm.

[DR.] HENRY [RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post Nov. 11, 1847].

Has at length been convinced that it is unwise for the heirs to hold "Fox Hall" under present circumstances and that its management would not overtax her husband. Therefore, submits Mr. duPont's bid of \$5000. The property, if purchased, will be held in her name and for her heirs, thus keeping it in the Ridgely family. Refers to her husband's efforts to restore "my farm", which less than thirty years previous produced a yearly income of \$400.00 but now brings scarcely \$30.00.

A. Df. U. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from "WILL" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON], near Milford, Del., [post Nov. 11, 1847].

Gladly consents to her sister's purchase of "Fox Hall", but thinks the heirs are under no obligation to sell it for their step-mother's convenience. Considers the latter's statements concerning it hypocritical. Was saddened by a recent trip to Dover, when she was made to feel unwelcome during her brief call at their old home. Alludes to her unborn child, the other members of both families, Eliza Lockwood's insanity, Mrs. . . . Corbit, and her own mischievous pup, "Rindo". Is interested in her Negro servant's baby boy, but wishes the child were a girl.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.4cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from ALEX[ANDER] JOHNSON, near Milford, Del., Nov. 15, 1847.

Thanks Mr. duPont for information about steam sawmills. Despite labor problems and other drawbacks he has almost decided to erect the mill. Approves the "Fox Hall" proposition which he considers very generous. Cannot forget Mrs. [Sally Ann] Ridgely's "unkindness" to "Willy" [Johnson].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H. M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Nov. 17, 1847.

Explains her attitude toward the sale of "Fox Hall", a property "so dear to Father". Consented to it in order to provide a suitable home for the widow and Ned, as [H. M.] Ridgely's will intended. When the first sale failed, she agreed that Mr. duPont should buy it on the terms now suggested, which will not jeopardize his capital or the interests of her stepchildren. Is delighted to own it upon these conditions, and appreciates the generosity of her brothers and sister in agreeing to them. Asks a written reply, so the agreement may be fully understood by all parties to it.

A. Cy. U. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 19, 1847.

All heirs have consented to the proposal for "Fox Hall". Mr. . . . Dunning cannot promise a supply of lime. The "two excellent bricklayers and plasterers in Dover" must be engaged in advance. "They work at \$1.75 per day"; bricks are \$6.00 or \$7.00 per hundred at Camden [Delaware].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", near Wilmington, from M. A. [MRS. JOSEPH] COMEGYS, Dover, Nov. 22, 1847.

Enjoyed her recent visit with the duPonts. Has just heard Nicholas Ridgely preach in the Courthouse. Thinks him gifted. Recalls seeing him "learning his first lessons at our old academy". Alludes to Christmas and New Year's preparations, to the duPont and Comegys children and, obscurely, to the plight of "us poor women in Dover this winter". Facetiously describes Lt. Purnell Lofland who has "drummed up recruits amounting to a regiment of 6". Members of the Ridgely family are well. Believes Mrs. [Mary] Morris wishes a full reconciliation with her brother's family. Mentions Anna Maria [Morris], Harriet, Cornelia and Douglass [Comegys], and the approaching marriage of Miss [Sally Ann] Stout to [Caleb H.] Sipple.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 24, 1847.

States the bid of John M. Voshell, "a very clever, industrious, worthy young man" now a Comegys tenant, for the Duck Creek farm. Asks Mr. duPont's advice and wishes him to notify Nicholas if he accepts the offer. The present tenant must receive notice by November 30. Mr. [Joseph] Comegys explains the process by which title to "Fox Hall" could become vested in the duPonts. Comments on Ann's imprudent generosity. The Board [of Farmers Bank] was forced to decline Mr. duPont's request "as we have not the means now of accommodating our own folks, & as we have never been in the habit of taking collaterals".

[Ann duPont forwards the letter to Nicholas with a note approving the sale of Duck Creek farm at any figure satisfactory to the others. Is disappointed that it seems impractical for them to secure title to "Fox Hall" as Henry's letter indicates. Supposes "the widow" will retain it.]

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Phoenixville, [Penna.], Nov. 24, 1847.

Gives further details of the plans for disposing of the Duck Creek, Draper and "Linden" farms. Is glad Ann and Mr. duPont will buy "Fox Hall". Has decided against purchasing the Draper property. Asks advice about an investment in Wilmington Railroad bonds. Discusses Eugene's [Ridgely] affairs. Promises a copy of the family record in the near future.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Esq., ["Louviers"], near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, [Penna.], Nov. 24, 1847.

Expresses confidence in Mr. duPont's ability and asks about selling Farmers Bank stock and investing his share of his father's estate in Wilmington & Baltimore Rail Road bonds.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.9cm.

J[OSEPH] P. COMEGYS, Esq., Dover, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington, c. Dec. 1847].

Proposes a plan for the disposal of the "Fox Hall" farm so as to provide the best income for Mrs. [S. A.] Ridgely, "who is young enough to look forward to 25 or 30 years more of life . . .".

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, [Penna.], Dec. 2, 1847.

Discusses investments, an offer for the Duck Creek farm and the proposed sale of "Fox Hall" to the duPonts.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, [Penna.], Dec. 8, 1847.

Writes about the sale of the family farms, his investment plans, copying the family record, and Ned's [Ridgely] progress at school. Is surprised at "Willy's" [Johnson] proposed confirmation. Their stepmother's parents [Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius P. Comegys], may live with her in the Ridgely house.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.8cm.

[DR.] HENRY [RIDGELY, Dover], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], Dec. 18, 1847.

Discusses possible tenants for "Fox Hall". Was amazed to learn the farm is rented for another year. This will make no difference to the purchase, but he will not pay interest until he obtains possession.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. ANNA R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], from JOHN M. CLAYTON, Washington, [D. C.], Jan. 3, 1847 [1848].

Promises to do all in his power to obtain a midshipman's warrant for her kinsman "young Wright". Believes Secretary [of Navy] Mason, a friend of his law-student days at Litchfield, Connecticut, will oblige him despite their difference in party unless the President [James K. Polk] has a candidate for the place. Warns of a flood of imports and much trouble as a result of "the democratic free trade law". Is pleased to learn that [Henry M. Ridgely], whose early kindness he remembers affectionately, harbored no [political] resentments against him at the close of his life.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Evansburg, Penna., Jan. 15, 1848.

Discusses their father's estate, and the purchase of railroad bonds. Is glad she is pleased with the family record, and will, at her suggestion, incorporate more about their father's illness in the sketch of his life. Confides that he has received but one

hundred sixty dollars salary since March, his reason for not fully repaying a loan and not coming to Dover. Assures her his family has not suffered and that he still loves his work.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Esq., Wilmington, from A. LARDNER & COMPANY, Philad[elphia], Jan. 27, 1848.

Announces the purchase of 900 [shares] of Wilmington Rail Road Company [stock] at \$701.75. Asks if the certificate should be made to Mr. [Nicholas] Ridgely.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 30, 1848.

Is worried and embarrassed at discovering their father's estate appears indebted to that of their uncle, [Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely], to which he himself is almost the sole heir. Will not pass the account until the probable error is found. Asks advice and assistance. Has a house and garden he would like to rent to an Irish family, if any will brave the mosquitoes of Kent County. Can also place several Irish women. Discusses lime, and ashes for himself and Mr. duPont. Inquires about insurance on "Fox Hall".

A note in Mrs. duPont's hand states that Henry, although enabled by their father's books to demand a considerable sum from the estate, claimed only enough to permit him to carry out the real intention of H. M. Ridgely's will.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.8cm. x 26.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., Jan. 31, 1848.

Acknowledges a kindness. Continues discussion of their father's estate. Asks for an account of his illness and death in the form of a letter to be laid in the Bible with other papers of family interest. Begs Ann to join the church. Mentions the other members of the family, and Mrs. [James] Couper, [Jr.].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, [Penna.], Feb. 3, 1848.

Urges that no return of their father's account as administrator of [Chancellor] Nicholas Ridgely's estate be passed until reexamined. Believes the cost of certain securities was charged against H. M. Ridgely and their value not credited as an asset of the estate, producing the illusion of a large deficit.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from REV.] NICHOLAS R[IDGELY], Phoenixville, [Penna.], Feb. 9, 1848.

Believes the income from securities as well as their purchase price was omitted in computing their father's account with Uncle [Chancellor Nicholas] Ridgely's estate. Urges her to write at once to [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] to avoid any misunderstanding with him over the matter. Mentions the Draper and "Linden" farms.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.9cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, [Penna.], Feb. 25, 1848.

Hopes her misunderstanding with [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] has been explained to their mutual satisfaction, pointing out several reasons why the letter that started the quarrel should have given no offense. Renews his plea for her to join the church. Harry [Ridgely] is beginning to talk. Mentions Ned [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., Feb. 26, 1848.

Agrees that the Draper farm should be offered at \$5000, and if not sold, leased for five years, giving its present tenant first option to buy or lease. Hopes Mr. duPont will undertake its management. Expects to be nearer Wilmington after new ministerial assignments are made three weeks hence.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 29, 1848.

Though hurt and amazed at her response to his letter about the debt between their father's and their uncle's estates, has now forgiven her. Explains the steps he is taking to solve the problem, and the suggestions Nicholas [Ridgely] has offered. Has already found the debt much less than the first examination indicated. [Mammy] Margaret should receive her interest in money, unless she agrees to accept its value in clothing. "Eugene [Ridgely] is to move out to Linden tomorrow". Mentions lime, guano and a sawmill frame being obtained for Mr. duPont by . . . Smithers and . . . Dunning; the "Camden Landing"; and her expected visit to Dover and to the Johnson home.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, c/o ALEX[ANDE]R JOHNSON, near Milford, Del., from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], March 30, 1848.

Alfred and Alexis [duPont] will rebuild the mill recently destroyed by fire. It was insured for \$6,500, about two-thirds of its value. His own textile mill is operating at top speed to complete a large contract. "I fear that the French Revolution is not made by the right thinking men and will end in anarchy; it appears to be the work of the lower classes & workmen The republican party in France is Whig, & the revolutionists are the loco focos." Thinks James Biderman and others "may come over [from France] this summer". John Jacob Astor's \$27,000,000 fortune "could not prolong his life". Inquires for "Willy" [Johnson] and her infant son [Henry Ridgely Johnson], and mentions his own daughter Amie [duPont], Sophie [duPont], Jim . . . and Gabriella

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, April 15, 1848.

Has been very well received by his new congregation, and finds his church "pretty and convenient". The neighborhood, 12th and Ogden Streets, is "entirely new". Their home on Ogden Street near 10th is pleasant, and, with the help of the women of the congregation, is being put in order. Is pleased to have a yard for Harry [Ridgely]. Mentions "the tenth Street omnibus". Accepts his sister's offer of several lengths of carpet.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, May 20, 1848.

Has selected the watch Ann wished him to choose as a gift from her. Hopes she can soon see the home he and Mary [Ridgely] are now putting in order. Mentions Ned [Ridgely] and "Willy" [Johnson]. Describes a fire in his neighborhood.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, June 2, 1848.

Tells of his own recent poor health, the excellent strawberries and other produce his farm is yielding, and his wife's embarrassment at having little to offer Mr. duPont when he called just after dinnertime. Thinks work at "[Barren] Plains", is progressing well, but doubts that lime or plaster will improve the yield of corn. Bark, which last year brought \$13.00 per cord, or about \$6.00 per tree, is now only \$4.50 per cord. Refers to the duPant family, "Willy" and [Henry Johnson], [tenants] . . . Everett and [Avery] Draper, and Purnell Lofland's marriage.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.7cm. x 26.8cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.],
from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, June 23, 1848.

Was distressed to learn of a serious fire in Mr. [Charles I.] duPont's plant, but is relieved that the loss will not ruin him and that it happened during a slack season. Congratulates his sister on the level-headed action that saved Harry's [Johnson] life in a sudden illness. George Dixon's child died recently. Discusses a rain which has greatly improved crop prospects, and other farm matters.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.8cm. x 26.8cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from
EUGENE R[IDGELY], "Linden", Del., June 23, [18]48.

Offers his sympathy to the duPonts in their serious loss by fire and volunteers his help in managing their Kent County properties. Refers to the danger Harry [Johnson] recently escaped; a little colored child of whom Amie [duPont] is fond; his subscription to *The [Blue Hen's] Chicken*; and the affection all who know [Charles I.] duPont feel for him.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.],
from VIRGINIA AND [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], "Eden
Hill", Del., [c. June 23, 1848].

Virginia offers sympathy to the duPonts, and to "Willy" [Johnson] whom she warns not to love her baby "too well". Recounts her recent household activities. Is embarrassed at being uncertain when her own child will be born, but believes it will be soon. Mentions her parents, "Juney" [Dr. Henry Ridgely], Eugene [Ridgely], "Miss Maria", Mrs. Robertson, Mary Dixon, T. Stevenson, Ignatius Cooper, Dr. [Gove] Sa[u]lsbury and "Purnel" [Lofland].

Henry reports that little hauling has been done at the sawmill because low water prevents cutting logs already on hand. Advises Mr. duPont to get timber wheels and do his own hauling as the present arrangement is too expensive.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from
[REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Aug. 16, 1848.

Refers to "the [family] letters you gave me. [I] felt almost transported back to the time and seasons & events alluded to in them." Saw an advertisement for "Proposals for the new church in Dover"; asks where it will be. Mentions seeing "the shower baths . . . you cannot fail to be pleased with them when you see them". Complains of the excessive heat in Philadelphia and of the difficulty of obtaining help.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.9cm. x 24.9cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phil[adelphia], Aug. 19, 1848.

Asks Mr. duPont to secure a tenant for the Draper farm, preferably "Enos or some English farmer". Mr. Donovan, Mr. Ennis and Jonathan Hunn are among the applicants. Gives financial data on the property. Mary [Ridgely] is ill and he finds himself an inexperienced child's nurse, though he can "make a cup of coffee . . . and toast a little bread". His stepmother recently visited them and will be in Wilmington soon.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from JOHN C. GROOME, Elkton, [Md.], Aug. 25, 1848.

Extends a pressing though facetiously worded invitation to the duPonts. Chides Mr. duPont for being excessively devoted to business and his wife to home. Refers to his own family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from VIRGINIA [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], "Eden Hill", Del., Aug. 29, [c. 1848].

Finds it hard to adjust herself to her father's [Jonathan Jenkins] death and to her mother's stunned grief. Tells of her infant daughter [Ruthanna Ridgely] who is very unlike "Jonty" [Jonathan Jenkins Ridgely]. Urges Ann to guard her health, for Amy's [duPont] sake, and to try to control her sense of foreboding. "Cousin Susan Mason" and Edward [Mason?] are staying at "Eden Hill".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.6cm. x 21.8cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, from C[HARLES] I. D[U]P[ONT], Fremont House, Boston, Mass., Sept. 1, [c. 1848].

After a routine business stop in New York, enlivened only by an inspection of the *Great Britain* and a friendly reception from Mr. [Edward] Gillilan, he and Victor [duPont] have arrived in Cambridge, [Massachusetts], where the youth hopes to be admitted as a senior [at Harvard]. A law student, Mr. Wallaston from Chester County [Pennsylvania], who has a brother in Wilmington, has been very helpful to Victor. He has been very kindly received elsewhere, "though Frank's [Commander S. F. duPont] friend professor [Henry Wadsworth] Longfellow was absent". After his own visits to [textile] mills he will come directly home. The trip will take about twenty-four hours.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Sept. 7, 1848.

Will go to Dover in a few days on estate business. Asks Mr. duPont's advice about renting or selling the Draper farm. Mentions John Raughley and Mr. . . . Sipple.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 13, 1848.

Cites the income and probable expenses of the Draper farm. Mr. [John] Raughley may apply for it, but Mr. duPont is to have a free hand in renting it. Has asked Daniel M. Bates to review [Joseph] Comegys' opinion affecting the legacy their father left him and Ned [Ridgely]. Mrs. . . . Simmons is dead. Mentions [S. A. Ridgely], "Aunt [Mammy] Margaret", "Becky", and Henry's [Ridgely] family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], and [REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Philadelphia, Sept. 13, 1848.

Mrs. Mary Ridgely refers to a pleasant visit to "Louviers", during her husband's absence in Dover. Philadelphia is so dusty, freshly washed clothes are taken from the line unfit for wear and "we are almost suffocated." Mentions Harry [Ridgely] and members of the duPont family.

Rev. Nicholas adds a note reporting "a pleasant and swift jaunt in the *Zephyr*. We left Dover about 7 o'clock and before one I was in my own house". Asks for "a pair of Jerry King's razors" from Garrett's Iron Store in Wilmington.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Sept. 21, 1848.

Has just purchased "a delightful moss mattress . . . for three dollars" but would appreciate "the flocks" for pillows and bolster. Continues a discussion of their father's estate and the Draper farm. Mentions Mr. [Joseph] Comegys, Mr. [Daniel M.] Bates and Mr. [John] Raughly. Believes Mrs. [Sally Ann] Ridgely is fonder of the younger Ridgelys "than I used to suppose". Harry [Ridgely] "improves astonishingly in talking". Blood's Dispatch is "forbidden to distribute letters in the Spring Garden District . . . a very inconvenient and unnecessary prohibition".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.9cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Oct. 23, 1848.

Acknowledges receipt of a lease, an "alphabet" for Harry [Ridgely], and an invitation they cannot accept. Met the man who now employs "your Isabella" at \$1.25 a week and who is much pleased with her. Writes of his progress in Greek; Fanny Darby's death; the pressure he will be under until Christmas; and his wife's relatives Sarah and Edwin [Tilton]. Skirts of his little son's dresses are "12 inches long without the hem and 2-1/2 yards wide".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Nov. 25, 1848.

Congratulates his sister upon the birth of her son [Henry R. duPont]. Likes the suggestion of naming him Ridgely duPont. Writes banteringly of the prospect of the little boy being raised as the heir to "Fox Hall".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from ELIZABETH [MRS. JOHN C. GROOME], Elkton, [Md.], Nov. 25, [1848].

Congratulates her friend upon the birth of her son. Likes the little boy's name [Henry Ridgely duPont], and thinks his dark hair will make him "look more like a Ridgely". Hopes they may visit one another soon and frequently. Sarah's [Young] children have been ill, Robert seriously so. [Mr. J. C. Groome] has been crippled with a huge boil above his knee.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 24.3cm.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from "ALEX" and "WILLIE" [MR. AND MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near] Milford, Del., Nov. 26, 1848.

Both offer congratulations on the birth of the duPont's second child [Henry Ridgely duPont]. Mr. Johnson, in a message to Mr. duPont, alludes to "the three Harry's" [Henry M. Ridgely, Henry R. Johnson and Henry R. duPont, infant grandsons of Henry M. Ridgely]. Also offers him a team of mules and some timber wheels, which he and Mr. . . . Tharp do not use since discontinuing their lumber business.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] and VIRGINIA RIDGELY, "Eden Hill", Del., Nov. 30, [1848].

Virginia congratulates her sister-in-law upon the birth of son [Henry Ridgely duPont]. "Willy" [Johnson] recently visited Dover with her infant, to "Aunty's" delight. Regrets

her failure to see Nicholas [Ridgely] and his wife in their own home. Mentions Eugene [Ridgely], her mother and her late father [Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Jenkins], and her daughter [Ruthanna Ridgely].

Henry adds a note of congratulation and a business message about "Fox Hall".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Dec. 29, 1848.

Is making a surprising recovery from a nearly fatal illness [pneumonia]. Expresses his gratitude for Mrs. [S.] Challenger's motherly care and for kindnesses offered by Mrs. [James] Couper, [Jr.], and Mr. [Charles I.] duPont. Refers to "Barbara jelly", calves' foot, and currant jelly as delicacies he particularly enjoyed. Hopes for a quiet visit on the Brandywine soon, since he is still worn out with the "incessant labour and fatigue" of the past fall. Believes it will be better both for himself and his family to ask for a country church.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 19.8cm.

CH[ARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 15, 1849.

Discusses [Farmers] Bank affairs, speaking highly of Mr. [James L.] Heverin and Mr. [Garrett] Luff who have fought to keep politics out of the institution's management, and with contempt of Mr. [Samuel] Catts. Also lists certain assets of his father's estate. Sends word to Ann [duPont] that he hopes to protect his brothers' interests by forcing his father's widow to accept her fair proportion of the estate's debts.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Jan. 15, 1849.

Considers taking Charles [George] Ridgely's younger son, [Charles Ridgely] to raise. Discusses the matter fully. The child's mother wishes him sent to West Point at fifteen, but "since the influence of this Institution, so far as I have known, has been decidedly evil, . . . I would prefer to select a good trade for him". Gives further details about their father's estate. Is still improving.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.9cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.], from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 21, 1849.

Explains various developments in the estate matter. Writes bitterly of [Mrs. Sally Ann Ridgely's] attitude and conduct toward all the family. Joined in forming a State [Agricultural]

Society but took no further part in the Agricultural Convention. His infant daughter [Ruthanna] is well. Mentions . . . Holcomb and Mr. [Charles I.] duPont.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Jan. 25, 1849.

Must withdraw from the ministry for a year to regain his health. Finds the position in New Castle for which he has applied is politically controlled and doubts he will be appointed. Mentions Judge [Willard] Hall, Major Young and Mr. [John M.] Clayton. Discusses alternate plans, financial arrangements, and settlement of their father's estate. Refers to Daniel Lowber's recent death and to his elderly widow, Cousin [Elizabeth] Lowber. Is delaying his decision about George Henry [Ridgely] until his own plans are more definite.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Philadelphia, Jan. 29, 1849.

Alludes to cousin [Elizabeth] Lowber's long, happy marriage. Will rent a house in Dover unless he secures the New Castle appointment. Mentions the death of Charles Clayton "among strangers in a strange land" leaving his eminent father [John M. Clayton] without a successor. Convalescence is tedious.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

[CHARLES I.] DUPONT, ["Louviers", Del.], from J. C. GROOME, Elkton, [Md.], Feb. 13, 1849.

Announces the birth of a son, his sixth child. Refers to his own recent poor health, now improved. Extends a warm invitation to the duPont family.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 14, 1849.

Has benefitted by a week's visit in New Castle. Returned on the *Napoleon*. Asks advice about accepting an offer to share Eugene's [Ridgely] home at "Linden" for a few months. Points out some of the advantages of boarding in New Castle. Dr. [James] Couper, Jr., after an examination, has recommended a year's rest. Alludes to an appointment the duPonts are seeking for him, and to the children of both families.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Brandywine, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS [RIDGELY], Wilmington, [post Feb. 14, 1849].

He may accept the offer of part of Eugene's [Ridgely] "Linden" for the winter so he can spend much time out of doors. Is discouraged over his continued ill health. [Daniel] Bates thinks the "Fox Hall" farm business can be settled satisfactorily. Mentions Dr. [Isaac] Jump.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.6cm. x 19.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, March 1, 1849.

The "penny post" is a great convenience but sometimes delays delivery of important letters. Has applied for the position of bank teller at Mr. [Charles I.] duPont's suggestion. Is worried about financial matters. Discusses settlement of their father's estate. "I am still mending, though very slowly." Will send the baby jumper.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, March 24, [18]49.

Has decided to rent a house, since \$10.00 per week for board and an unfurnished room at Mrs. . . . McDowell's is beyond his means, and he cannot bring himself to live in the boarding houses he can afford. His household expenses for the past year were only \$350.00 for wages, provisions, laundry, fuel and light. Since a house rents for \$150.00 or less his plan will be better than boarding. Discusses the moving, his prospective position in the Farmers Bank, and an agreement between [Mrs. S. A. Ridgely] and the Ridgely heirs. Alludes to his own expected child.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Philadelphia, March 31, 1849.

Describes the house on Shipley Street near 9th he has rented for \$120.00 per year. Asks advice about purchasing furnishings. Is delighted to be near the duPonts. Suggests a plan for receiving his share "of Fox Hall money".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, May 16, [c. 1849].

Wishes Nicholas rather than Ned [Ridgely] to bid for the books [H. M. Ridgely's law library]. Offers suggestions for the procedure. Discusses financial arrangements between the children and the widow of H. M. Ridgely. Mentions "Willy" and Harry [Johnson]. The wheat crop seems excellent. Refers to Ned's approaching commencement.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, [June] 27, [1849].

Mentions her recent illness and a visit to "Louviers". Explains his bid for his father's law library, which he did not expect would please either Henry [Ridgely] or their stepmother, but which he believed just. Has accepted the idea of surrendering his legacy, so any he does receive will be "so much clear gain". His own health is improving.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 19.6cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.], from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, [c. Aug. 1849].

Upon her pressing invitation sends [four-year-old] Harry [Ridgely] to stay with her, on condition that he be sent home at once if he is troublesome. Asks her to be strict, to keep him out of the garden, where he is destructive, and to give him "no tea or coffee but simple cambric tea with a good proportion of milk". Makes other suggestions regarding his care. Mary [Ridgely] is "doing quite well".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.6cm. x 19.7cm.

CH[ARLES] I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, [c. Aug. 10, 1849].

Forwards to Mr. duPont, with a request for advice, a bid of \$3000 he had received from Hunn Jenkins, of Camden [Delaware] for one of the Ridgely farms. Mr. Jenkins considers the farm in poor condition. Has discussed the subject with [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.], from [MRS.] HELEN RUFF, Rahway, [N. J.], Aug. 18, [18]49.

Congratulates her cousin on the birth of her son [Henry R. duPont]. Tells of a cholera epidemic, in which three friends and many acquaintances died. Announces and explains her decision to remarry after nearly eight years of widowhood. Describes her fiancé, Edward Young Rogers. Her children are pleased and her other relatives approve. Gives news of her sisters Elizabeth [Gillilan] and Julia [Wright], and brothers William [Wright], now in New Orleans, James [Wright] at the University of Pennsylvania, and John [Wright], who recently had a quick and pleasant voyage to California via Cape Horn in 137 days.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 22.4cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [DR.] JA[ME]S COUPER [JR.], New Castle, Del., Aug. 21, 1849.

Grieves to hear of "these accumulated afflictions of my friend Nicholas [Ridgely] . . .". He, his wife, and Mrs. [S.] Challenger will all visit him soon.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 26, [18]49.

Was relieved that "poor Nick . . . has not had any return of the hemorrhage since Tuesday". Thinks the \$3000.00 accepted for the Draper farm was \$500.00 too low, but the bargain must be honored. Also mentions that Hunn [Jenkins], the purchaser, is a wealthy man who can undoubtedly fulfill his agreement, while the other man, who bid more, has a poor partner and might not be able to do so. Aunt [Mary B.] R[idgely] is ill.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from HUNN JENKINS, Philad[elphi]a, Sept. 21, 1849.

Discusses a delay in "closing the Deed" for the [Draper] farm. Fears [Rev.] Nicholas [Ridgely] is worse. Asks that a date be set for meeting with the Wilmington heirs.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 27cm.

MRS ANN DUPONT, near wilmington, from . . ., Dover, Oct. 2, 1849.

Writes at the request of Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely, who believes she is dying and wishes Ann to visit her so she may give her some message. Pities "Willy" [Johnson] whose cares tie her at home.

A. L. [S. torn off] 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [REV.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Phoenixville, Penna., Oct. 19, 1849.

Is better since coming to Phoenixville. Will soon return to the bank. Asks advice about spending the winter travelling in the South, assisted by a letter from his Bishop identifying him as a "Methodist preacher in search of health". Has taken "nearly a quart" of cod liver oil and plans to get more. Mentions Drs. [James] Couper [Jr.] and [Robert] Porter. His wife and their infant daughter [Mary T. Ridgely] are well. Was shocked to learn that Rev. [James] Nicols, who had recently dined with the duPonts and his own family, has committed a murder in a fit of insanity.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 24cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Brandywine, near Wilmington, from [REV.] Nicholas [RIDGELY, Wilmington], Nov. 20, [1849].

Is considering the disposition of his estate but is uncertain what plan will best protect his family. Explains various expenditures made on behalf of his wife's relatives, most of which were incurred over her opposition. Refers to their infant daughter [Mary Tilden Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. CH[ARLE]S I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 2, 1849.

Was grieved but not surprised at Nick's [Ridgely] death, for during his visit to Dover three weeks previous he had appeared too feeble to survive the winter. Writes appreciatively of their brother's saintly character, generosity, and resignation. Offers condolence to his widow [Mary T. Ridgely]. Alludes to Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely's failing health. Refers briefly to funeral plans and to the various members of the family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.], from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 25, 1849.

Has spent a "dull and gloomy" Christmas, with Eugene [Ridgely] as his family's one guest. Reminds her of "the old times when we were all gathered together around the Christmas board, when Father, Mother, Brother Charles, Nick, yourself, Eugene, Ned & I, with Aunt R[idgely] & Miss Maria sat together at the well-filled table, the smoking viands prepared by the skillful hands of Mammy Margaret, all cheerful and happy." Recalls the deaths and other changes that have since occurred. Nicholas' [Ridgely] "memory is to me like something not of this world, for such angelic purity is rarely seen". Will stop at "Louviers" when he and [Alexander] Johnson visit Washington soon. Complains of being much tied by farm business. Mentions Aunt [Mary B.] R[idgely] who is very frail; his own wife and small daughter; [Mrs. Mary T. Ridgely]; Mrs. [S.] Challenger, Dan[iel] Bates, and Mr. . . . Comegys. Has almost settled their father's estate so far as is possible while his widow lives.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [MRS.] MARY [T. RIDGELY], New Castle, Del., Dec. 25, 1849.

Since her husband's [Nicholas Ridgely] death, she finds consolation only in religion. "I have seen in you much of his spirit and loveliness of character". Is boarding with Mrs. [S.] Challenger. Syrup of squills and sweet oil were prescribed for her child's feverish cold. Appreciates help with business problems and asks further advice.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from V[IRGINIA, MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], "Eden Hill", [Del.], c. 1850.

Refers to the duPont family's recent visit to "Eden Hill". Writes of members of the Ridgely family, her mother, "Aunt Eliza . . .", and "my poor cousin Harriet Temple". Amy [duPont's] recent letter shows great improvement over the first.

Alludes to "your adventure with poor [servant] Alice I suppose the law was of minor importance when the girl could say she was raised by Mary Morris".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16.6cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, New Castle, Del., Jan. 7, 1850.

Has arranged with Mrs. [S.] Challenger for [Mrs.] Mary [T. Ridgely] and her children to live with the Challengers but will offer no advice about rates for board. Refers affectionately to [Nicholas Ridgely]. Begs Ann to seek conversion.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from [MRS.] M[ARIA] E. B[LACK], Phila[delphia], Feb. 14, 1850.

Finds no blue gingham, so sends green. Refers to Sarah [Mrs. William Young], the pleasure two children have received from their Valentines, and "the Bishop's School".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. A. R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [EU]GENE [RIDGELY], "Linden", Del., March 3, 1850.

Reassures her about the record of Ned's [Ridgely] age. Encloses \$1.00 for his brother's use, suggesting teasingly that he "learn dancing, fencing and music" with it. Refers in a mocking tone to the "delightful singers" for which the Ridgely family is famous. Mentions several items of farm and estate business, and alludes to his own inability to write at night.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19.3cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], March 28, 1850.

Acknowledges a gift of games and clothing for her children. Molly [Mary Tilden Ridgely] resembles her father [Nicholas Ridgely]. Wants a black veil. Inquires about "the Voshell interest".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 17.8cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, June 10, 1850.

Explains the division he has made among the heirs of an installment paid on the Voshell mortgage. Asks the date of Ned's [Ridgely] commencement. Has just returned from a pleasant trip to Niagara Falls, [New York] with his family.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 17.4cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near] Milford, Del., June 22-24, 1850.

Has dinner to prepare and send out to "twenty-five or thirty men" raising the new Johnson home ["Coon Den"]. Describes its location and asks advice on paper for two parlors, dining room and bedroom. [Dr.] Henry and Virginia [Ridgely] sent buckskin moccasins and a birch bark cardbasket, souvenirs of their trip to Niagara Falls. Mentions a tombstone for Nicholas [Ridgely]. Has not seen Ann in thirteen months. Mentions [her infant daughter] Lizzie [Elizabeth Johnson].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, July 2, 1850.

Is now quite at home in his old room despite the "desolation" he felt at making his farewells at St. Mary's [College]. Writes appreciatively of his three years' association with Mr. [Rev. Patrick] Reilly, the teachers and his classmates. Will begin his law studies as soon as the weather moderates. Worries about Ann's health, advising her to delay a visit to Dover while scarlet fever is epidemic there. Mentions [Dr.] Henry and Virginia [Ridgely] and their daughter [Ruthanna], members of the duPont family, and Mary and Harry [Ridgely, widow and son of Nicholas]. Considers Ann's kindness toward him during his college year "that of a mother for a son".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, July 17, 1850.

Estimates the cost of a tombstone to be erected as a family memorial to Nicholas [Ridgely] and refers to "Willy" [Johnson], Ned, Eugene, [Mrs.] Sally Ann [Ridgely] and [Mrs.] Mary [T. Ridgely]. Speaks of his own daughter [Ruthanna Ridgely] and of Mr. [Alexander] Johnson's new house. The wheat crop is excellent.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 32.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [MRS.] M[ARY] T. RIDGELY, New Castle, Del., July 29, 1850.

Urges Ann to visit Cape May [New Jersey] for her health. Molly [Ridgely] is thriving since rice flour was added to her diet. A tombstone for Nicholas [Ridgely] will cost from \$15.00 to \$45.00 plus three cents a letter for the inscription. Mentions Miss Rebecca Challenger, and the Ridgely and duPont children.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 2, 1850.

Eugene [Ridgely] is improving, under Dr. [Isaac] Jump's care, from a severe illness. Anna M. Morris has attended her first camp meeting, leading to a rumor of her engagement to Mr. . . . Jarvis. The mason estimates \$12.00 for placing Nicholas Ridgely's tombstone. Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely is as well as usual. Refers to his own inability to travel at night.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, from [MRS.] M[ARY] T. RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], Sept. 5, 1850.

Wishes gaiters which are too large for her son exchanged for "morocco boots". Discusses the settlement of her husband's estate, the method of collecting the income due her from it, and the tombstone for his grave. Mentions her children, the duPonts, [Daniel M.] Bates, William [Tilden], and Mrs. [S.] Challenger. Quotes a proposed epitaph.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 11, [18]50.

Eugene [Ridgely] has recovered. Papers relating to the "Fox Hall" purchase will be signed soon. Considers the property an excellent investment. Hopes to have the weed-grown [Christ] Churchyard properly cared for, and to enlist [Dr.] Henry's [Ridgely] interest in the plan, which he will push alone if necessary. Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely is eager to have it done. Two churches are under construction in Dover. Refers to Mr. . . . Boyer, Ma [Mrs. Sally Ann Ridgely], the duPont family and [Rev.] Nicholas [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from ELIZABETH [MRS. JOHN C.] GROOME, [Elkton, Md.], Sept. 27, [c. 1850].

Grieves bitterly over the death, five months previous of her little son [William Groome] after a few days' illness, though she tries to accept religious consolation. There were other serious illnesses in the family at the same time. Invites the duPonts to visit soon. Alludes to members of her own family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from V[IRGINIA] E. R[IDGELY], "Eden Hill", Del., Oct. 1, [c. 1850].

Tells of her mother's [Mrs. Jonathan Jenkins] illness, the trials of obtaining help for the farm and household, and the foibles that complicate aged "Aunty's" [Mary B. Ridgely] life. Also mentions [Ruthanna], Ned, and Mary [T.] Ridgely, Sally Ann [Ridgely], and "Willy" [Johnson]. "I have covered thee a pot with moss."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Oct. 18, 1850.

Believes there is no danger of losing the Voshell suit, of which he gives some details. [Christ] Churchyard has been greatly improved, hopes it may never again become so neglected. There is little excitement between Whigs and Democrats, but Mr. . . . Smithers and others are organizing the Temperance Party vigorously enough to promise "great harm to the Whigs [of] this county". Drought and "the fly" threaten the wheat crop. Is glad she has had a satisfactory miniature painted for he doubts she could "get a daguerreotype to resemble you in the least".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 2, 1850.

Was disappointed at not seeing Mary [T. Ridgely] while in Philadelphia, but met her brother aboard the *Zephyr*. Hearing Jenny Lind was "a musical treat". Was not surprised that "even [Mr. Charles I. duPont] like all the rest of mankind, was crazy to hear" the soloist.

[A note redirects this letter to Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely from Mrs. Charles I. duPont.]

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Jan. 22, 1851.

The "long-talked of" public supper was very successful, but he found the crowd and confusion too bewildering for enjoyment. The ladies of the Presbyterian Church recently gave an excellent concert. Mrs. [Benjamin F.] Chatam, a sister of [Mrs. Sally Ann Ridgely] is dangerously ill. The Assembly has made a desultory start on its work. Believes [James A.] Bayard will be chosen U. S. Senator but that [Martin] Bates deserves the honor. Either choice may divided the party. Gives news of members of the family, mentioning Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely, "Aunt [Mammy] Margaret", and Henry and Virginia [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, April 14, 1851.

Nicholas' [Ridgely] tombstone should be sent down as soon as possible. It can be hauled from Dover Landing and erected for \$12.00. Comments acidly on Mr. [Caleb] Sipple, who was recently buried.

[Redirected by Mrs. duPont to Mrs. Mary T. Ridgely, 42 Buttonwood St., Philadelphia, with a note asking to have the stone shipped on the steamboat *Zephyr*.]

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 28cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near Milford, Del., c. June 1851].

Pours out her grief over her little daughter's [Elizabeth Johnson] death, which came after only four day's illness. Accepts the consoling thought that the child is happier now than she could have been in life, but misses her desperately. Feels more need than ever before to see Ann.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 19cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from VIRGINIA [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], Dover, June 6, [c. 1851].

Tells of the birth of her daughter Sarah [Ridgely] and her own subsequent ill health. The baby, who is large, healthy and resembles "the Jenkins side of the house", is already the pet of her father and Ruthanna [Ridgely]. The latter "inherits the Ridgely failing" of being a vivid and inventive story-teller. Grieves with "Willy" [Johnson] over the death of her lovely little daughter. Has often been amazed at how responsibly "Willy", despite her youth and gaiety, has met the duties of marriage and motherhood. Names eleven Dover matrons who expect or have just borne infants.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Aug. 20, 1851.

Inquires about his sister's recent trip to New York. Asks her advice about attending law school for six months or a year, preferably at Yale where the expenses do not exceed \$400.00 yearly and the small classes give the students valuable training. Writes of Mary [T.] Ridgely, whose little son [Harry Ridgely] has been gravely ill. "Willie" [Johnson] is visiting Dover. Is quite in love with "her youngest boy" [James Johnson]. Is glad the "Fox Hall" business is finally settled.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [EU]GENE [RIDGELY], "Linden", [Del.], Aug. 22, [18]51.

Orders two tons of guano. Expects to sell a small lot to buy lime, which he has found valuable. Is proud of his farm this season for he has been well enough to keep it in good condition. "Willie" [Johnson] and her little baby [Jim] are up".

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 31.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 18, 1851.

Appreciates the affectionate letter he has just received, and the intimacy between them it reflects. Has decided to attend the law school at New Haven, since all the lawyers he has consulted advise it as a real help in a student's preparation and for the prestige it gives at the start of a career. Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely has unaccountably regained her hearing. "Aunt [Mammy] Margaret" is ill. Refers to a visit with "Willy" [Johnson], Victor's [duPont] wedding and Mary's [duPont] illness. Is amused at a rumor of his own engagement to their cousin Anna Maria Morris.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 24, 1851.

Acknowledges a gift. Has determined to guard against the temptations that beset a young man at college, and will keep Charles' [G. Ridgely] unfortunate life always before him as a warning. Mentions "Willy", [Alexander] Johnson and their children; Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely; [Mrs. Sally Ann Ridgely], and Dr. [Martin] Bates.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

ANNIE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, n. p.], from [MRS.] ELIZABETH GILLILAN, "Linden", [Del.], Oct. 4, [1851].

Is concerned over Mary's [duPont] serious illness, and sorry for "the gloom" it will cast over her brother's [Victor duPont] wedding. Recalls incidents of Ann's recent visit to her home. Wishes she could do more for "poor Aunt Mary" [Hillyard]. Mentions Helen [Rogers] and her son Theodore; Juliet [née Wright]; John [Wright]; Mrs. . . . , Aspinwall; and other mutual acquaintances.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 17.4cm. x 21cm.

[JOHN JORDON] CRITTENDEN, [Washington, D. C.], from JOHN M. CLAYTON, "Buena Vista", Del., Oct. 8, 1851.

Asks his friend to obtain President [Millard] Fillmore's promise to appoint Charles I. duPont, Jr., a purser in the Navy as soon as a vacancy occurs. Emphasizes that the duPonts have been the most influential single family in building up the Whig

Party in Delaware, and in sending Whig Senators to Congress; that they have contributed generously; and that the appointment would please the entire Party in Delaware. The applicant himself is fully qualified. Mentions [Secretary of the Navy William A.] Graham and Eleuthere Irene, Victor, Charles I. and S[amuel] F[rancis] duPont.

[Presumably a copy to Charles I. duPont.]

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HON. W[ILLIAM] A. GRAHAM, Sec'y of the Navy, [Washington, D. C.], from JOHN M. CLAYTON, "Buena Vista", [Del.], Oct. 8, 1851.

Recommends Charles I. duPont, Jr. for "the appointment of Purser in the Navy". Considers the young man personally qualified for the post and points to his family's invaluable services to the Whig Party throughout its existence.

[Presumably a copy to Charles I. duPont.]

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CH[ARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, [Dec. 25], 1851.

Is glad she will try to prevent Eugene [Ridgely] from selling "Linden", a move that would be disastrous. Implies that he himself would leave ["Eden Hill"], to a Ridgely man rather than to one of his own daughters, [Ruthanna and Sally Ridgely], out of sentiment for the family name. Repeats an inquiry in regard to five shares of United States Bank stock belonging to their grandmother's [Ann (Moore) Ridgely] estate.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 25.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], New Haven, Conn., Dec. 28, 1851.

Thinks Eugene [Ridgely] has been unduly discouraged by a few poor years at farming, and will oppose his selling "Linden" which should become a good investment now that he has learned to manage it. Will sell his own farm when a suitable price is offered. Has benefitted greatly from his associations at law school, and is even more determined than before to use his time wisely. Finds his legal preparation good but he needs more history. Regrets the recent ill health of the duPont family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[ALEXANDER] JOHNSON, [near Farmington, Del.], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, ante March 3, 1852.

[Samuel M.] Harrington recruited unexpected support for State subscription [to the Delaware Railroad Company's stock] during a visit to Geo[rge]town "on the D[ove]r Green business" when he addressed a meeting called by "... Layton, [John W.]

Houston and others". Sends regards to "Willy" [Mrs. Alexander Johnson] and Harry [Johnson]. Refers to "a very neat freshet" [on the Brandywine]. The Assembly will adjourn about March 3.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.6cm. x 19.8cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from E[UGENE] RIDGELY, Dover, March 14, [18]52.

Orders three bushels of clover seed, unobtainable in Dover. Discusses certain payments.

[A memorandum indicates the clover cost \$16.25.]

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington), from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], New Haven, [Conn.], March 19, 1852.

Was amused at the report he was in love with Sarah McDaniel, to whom he has written a few casual letters. Promises to consult his sister before deciding upon marriage to anyone, though that step is still far in the future. Asks advice about returning to New Haven. Has improved in knowledge of the law and in delivery much faster than at Dover, but believes the benefits from another term would not justify the expense. Has spent about \$330.00. Complains of intense loneliness. Is sometimes concerned about his eyes though at other times he believes they are stronger. Mentions Mary duPont's illness.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, April 30, 1852.

Declines an offer of financial assistance to enable him to return to New Haven, because his own income will meet all real needs and the foundation already laid at Yale is adequate if he now studies diligently at home. Will soon offer his farm for sale. Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely is ill. Gives news of Mrs. [Sally Ann] Ridgely, Eugene, Henry, Virginia and Sallie [Ridgely] and inquires for members of the duPont family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from C[HARLES] I. D[U]P[ONT], "Louviers", Del. June 18, 1852.

Misses his wife during her absence. Recounts the happenings of the household. Refers to Ned's recovery from an illness. Mentions John Towner, Mr. . . . Bliss, Peter Kemble, John Comegys, . . . Bateman and . . . Hollingsworth. A final dividend of \$3.50 will be paid on Ann (Moore) Ridgely's Bank of the United States stock upon proper identification. Discusses various items of business. Comments on the political convention in Baltimore and the nomination of [Franklin] Pierce as President. "How

much folly there is in the bringing up [of] the children of the so-called Rich in this Country", whose little girls are denied healthful if laborious household tasks but made to "sit to a piano thumping a sonata for 2 or 3 hours a day".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, July 26, [1852].

Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely is believed dying. He himself is recovering but slowly from the effects of his illness. Expects to start on "a sea trip" shortly to escape the general ill health of Dover. Is concerned over Mr. [Charles I.] duPont. Deeply appreciates his sister's motherly care, and thinks of Mr. [Charles I.] duPont as "the kindest man living." There is much protest over the proposed route of the [Delaware] Railroad. Complains of the weakness of his eyes.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from EDWARD RIDGELY, Long Island Sound, Aug. 22, 1852.

Is enjoying a schooner cruise. His health is much improved. Can eat "the courest fare . . . with impunity . . . I hope by the time I return to Dover to be able to resume my studies in earnest."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [EDWARD RIDGELY], Fall River, [Mass.], Sept. 1, [1852].

Tells of a sailing voyage up the New England coast with stops at New Haven and Stonington [Connecticut], and Fall River [Massachusetts]. Passed Newport [Rhode Island] without stopping, but hopes to see the town on the return trip. Expects to reach Taunton [Massachusetts] during the day, and to visit Boston the next. The fishing, the weather and his appetite have all been excellent, though if he were less hungry "I really think that my stomach would turn when I look at the table cloth". His health is much better.

A. L. [incomplete] 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MR. and MRS . . . EARLE, New Castle, [Del.], from MR. and MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], Dec. 21, [c. 1852].

Mr. and Mrs. duPont extend a formal invitation for the evening of December 29.

A. N. U. 1 p. 11cm. x 18cm.

MRS. ANN [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, near Wilmington, from MRS. MARY HILLYARD, 457 W. Franklin St., Baltimore, Md., [ante 1853].

Appreciates assistance from Mrs. duPont and her New York nieces. Keen competition makes it difficult to earn a living by sewing, even with a machine. May reopen her school. Mary [Hillyard] is with her. Will[iam Hillyard] is in the Rocky Mountains, working a gold claim and "pursuing his trade". It pleased with Marty's [Martin B. Hillyard] "lovely disposition" and "prudence". Refers to Harry [duPont].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 23.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Dover, c. Jan. 5, 1953].

Is disgusted with developments in the [State] Senate, which would elect [John M.] Clayton to the [United States] Senate "in half an hour" except for the opposition of certain Whigs willing to fight over "the poor miserable office of [State] auditor" even at the risk of the Senate seat. Pities Mr. Clayton whose "money in Sussex elected some" of those now imperiling his chance of answering his detractors from the Senate floor. Failed to effect the change he proposed in the [Delaware] Railroad line through "our farm", which he is convinced can become "the handsomest in the County" and able of itself to support them comfortably. Sends his special love to "my poor child Mary" [duPont] who he hopes is now less depressed. Despises men who use others' reputation for integrity as a shield for their own selfish designs.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from JOHN M. CLAYTON, "Buena Vista", Del., Jan. 7, 1853.

Appreciates Mr. duPont's letter. Sees no reason for not conceding the office of State Treasurer to the opposition in exchange for the [United States] Senatorship. Is eager to meet [Senator Lewis] Cass on the Senate floor, and is delighted at a vindication of his own policies [as Secretary of State] appearing in "the *National Intelligencer* on Monday". Considers Messrs. [Lewis] Cass, . . . Davis and [John A.] Weller convicted of "a palpable lie".

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Jan. 8, 1853.

Alludes to a pleasant visit with "Willy" [Johnson], a meeting of the Delaware Railroad stockholders, and John Comegys' "misdeeds". Hopes Ann can spend much of the winter in Dover and with the Johnsons while her husband is a State Senator.

Is continuing the treatment prescribed for his eyes, and the use of "vinegar, brandy and water" but is discouraged. Has advertised his farm.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

[CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover], from R. CLEMENTS, Centreville, [Del.], Jan. 10, 1853.

Supposes it is already too late to remind Mr. duPont of his application for appointment as State Auditor. Is delighted with the defense Mr. [John M.] Clayton has already made against Vice-President-elect, [Lewis] Cass' charges, and thinks simple justice requires his return to the [United States] Senate to complete his vindication.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from E[DWARD] W. GILPIN, Wilmington, Jan. 12, 1853.

Wishes the Delaware Railroad bill delayed pending negotiations between the two companies concerned, for the proposed plan opens the way for destructive competition in the Delaware-Chesapeake traffic. Also questions Judge [Samuel M.] Harrington's financial estimate, and believes the company in which he himself is interested must assist the new line. Is anxious to cooperate fully, but will withdraw all friendly overtures if the new company insists on the right to open a competing route to Baltimore.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

C[HARLES I.] DUPONT, [Dover], from S. M. FELTON, Wilmington, Jan. 12, 1853.

Opposes the Delaware Railroad bill as it nows stands, insisting that a clause be added forbidding the new company to build an alternate line to Baltimore. Is anxious to support and assist the enterprise if the older company's interests are assured.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from S[AMUEL] M. HARRINGTON, Dover, Jan. 15, 1853.

Sends the report of a Norfolk group which contains "some facts for your report on internal improvements". Argues for a railroad subsidy he favors. Extending credit for the new road will be neither expensive nor dangerous to the State, while the finished line will yield rich revenues in tax collections, population increase and business expansion. Expects to confer with [Edward] Gilpin and [S. M.] Felton.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 34cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [Dover], from DAN]IEL] M. BATES, Wilmington, Jan. 18, 1853.

Asks Mr. duPont to introduce a bill permitting Mt. Salem M. E. Church to lay out and improve a country cemetery. It is similar to the bill passed for the Green Hill Cemetery.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [Dover], from [DR.] JA[ME]S COUPER, New Castle, Del., Jan. 18, 1853.

Inquires about the possibility of repealing acts of the Legislature which give Elihu Jefferson the right to take possession of property in New Castle previously ceded to the Federal Government. This has of course stopped further Federal grants for improving the harbor, or even the expenditure of sums already authorized. Hopes the [Delaware] Railroad line will be so laid that New Castle's port will not be hurt.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from J. CLOUD ELLIOTT, [n. p.], Jan. 20, 1853.

Asks an act permitting him to record a deed now nearly two years old, and neglected during "its year". Others also desire similar relief.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 22cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from [REV.] J. S. WALSH, Brandywine, Del., Jan. 24, 1853.

Transmits a petition of Dr. [John P.] Neuman[n], Bishop of Philadelphia, asking protection for [the Roman Catholic Church] in its right to hold property for charitable, educational and religious purposes. Points out that many of the 324 supporting signatures are those of Protestants. Titles to school property are the chief consideration, since the diocese is instructing about four hundred children in Wilmington and about three hundred forty in Brandywine [Hundred].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from E[DWARD] W. GILPIN, [Wilmington, post Jan. 24, 1853].

Submits and explains two drafts of a bill adapting the general provision concerning Church real estate and trust funds to the special requirements of Roman Catholic congregations. Suggests certain concessions required by the unreasoning prejudice of many legislators. Asks his friend to take charge of bills for exempting from taxation the property intended for a Federal Building and for vacating a certain portion of Orange Street, both in Wilmington.

A. L. S. [incomplete] 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

REV. J. S. WALSH, [Brandywine, Del.], from [CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, post Jan. 24, 1853].

Quotes the bill, prepared by E[dward] W. Gilpin, which has been substituted for the original "Catholic Bill". Is "endeavoring to allay as much as I can all sectarian feeling, which predominates here to an extraordinary degree", and expects success if he moves cautiously.

A. Df. U. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Dover], from C. H. FISHER, Philad[elphia], Jan. 26, 1853.

Appeals to Mr. duPont to prevent the Assembly from chartering another canal to the detriment of shareholders of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company. Insists that new facilities are unnecessary. Asks suggestions for fighting the proposal, which he implies is very popular in Wilmington.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.5cm.

CHA[RLES] I. DUPONT, [Dover], from GEO[RGE] CRAIG, Wilmington, Jan. 30, 1853.

States the case for a new and larger canal between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays. Points out the importance of canal traffic in other parts of eastern United States. As a shipper, he has suffered from the delays caused by the present canal's small locks. Its tolls on lumber are four times those of the Pennsylvania, Tidewater, Erie, or Delaware & Raritan canals. Thinks that at reasonable rates there could be enough traffic to support both companies. Regrets Mr. . . . Ferguson's opposition.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Dover], from JOHN W. TATUM, Wilmington, [Feb.] 1, 1853.

Discusses the best means of obtaining repeal of "the law relating to Free Negroes . . . in Brandywine, Wilmington, Christiana & Mill Creek Hundreds". Over one hundred signatures to a circular letter have been obtained. Mentions John Alderice and Dr. [A. H.] Grimshaw.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [Dover], from JAMES RIDDLE, [near Wilmington], Feb. 3, 1853.

Quotes his neighbor Mr. . . . Monckton, formerly an assistant manager in the Philadelphia House of Refuge, as authority that at least six incorrigible and dangerous vagabond boys, bound out in Delaware by the House of Refuge, are at large in Wilmington. Believes the General Assembly should either require all persons bringing such youths into the State to be personally responsible for their conduct, or that the House of Refuge take

back any who prove unmanageable. Suggests that Delaware needs a House of Refuge of its own, which might reclaim most of the "many Juvenile Loafers and young rascally idle boys . . . who are now training up to rowdyism and idleness". The present session is considered "a real working legislature".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.5cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Dover, from JAMES RIDDLE, Brandywine Cotton Mills, Wilmington, Feb. 5, 1853.

Hopes important changes in the State [Liquor] License Law may be passed at this session. Complains of disorderly conduct and illegal sale of intoxicants at "Beer & Cake Houses", such as one near him owned by Mr. . . . Lovering. Suggests these places be made subject to search upon complaint, and both dispenser and landlord fined if liquor be found on the premises. Fines should be light but certain.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21cm. x 27cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [Dover], from JOHN W. TATUM, Wil[mington, Feb.] 5, [1853].

Sends a copy of a letter of B. Banneker, free Negro, with its answer, and a copy of *Era* containing "John O. Hale's speech". Asks for an appointment on [Monday] morning.

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 5.6cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Dover, from JOHN M. CLAYTON, "Buena Vista" [Del.], Feb. 7, 1853.

Is concerned because a nephew he hopes may take over the management of his farm has not arrived from New Castle. Will offer the young man every inducement. "My own health is so desolate that I wish to go to Dover where I can be with my niece and her children". Hopes the Temperance bill will pass.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from THO[MA]S R. MARIS, Office Board of Underwriters, Philadelphia, Feb. 8, 1853.

Asks Mr. duPont to present to the Legislature "a petition from the Marine Underwriters of this City, desiring a grant by the State of Delaware of such portion of Reedy Island as will be necessary for the construction of a Harbour". This is important to all concerned in the navigation of the Delaware.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [Dover], from R. CLEMENTS, Centreville, [Del.], Feb. 10, 1853.

Deplores the failure of the Canal Bill in the Senate. Supposes the revenue it would have brought in must be made up by a Lottery Bill or "the more straight forward . . . means of direct taxation", and that "the Locos" will make political capital of a situation they helped to produce. Urges action of "the Temperance question", suggesting that the number of licensed taverns be reduced to that actually needed by travellers, "tippling" be forbidden on the premises, and the fee raised. There are now six taverns on the seven-mile road between his house and Wilmington. Women are militantly interested in the issue. Urges repeal of the law forbidding Negroes absent from the State for six weeks to re-enter it, no matter how valid the reason for leaving or returning. "We who live on the border of the State are obliged to witness some hardships imposed . . . by this bad law that humanity shudders at. It is the only law that I have ever knowingly connived at the violation of".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

CHA[RLES] I. DUPONT, Dover, from SAM[UEL] C. MORTON, Philad[elphi]a, Feb. 10, 1853.

Introduces Col. A. G. Waterman, leading organizer of a convention recently held in Independence Hall "to take action upon the erection of a suitable monument by the original 13 States, commemorative of our Independence as a nation". Is confident Delaware will contribute generously.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, JR., "Louviers", near Wilmington, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, Feb. 10, 1853.

Advises his son to consult [S. F. duPont, Victor duPont and Senator James A.] Bayard, [Jr.] about seeking Senate reconsideration of his nomination as a purser. Thinks success is probable, for "I can trust the Senate even better than [President Millard] Fillmore who has acted meanly toward us. . . . I do hope you will succeed for the idea of your spending your days as I have mine in manufacturing is not desirable". Mentions [John M.] Clayton and an enclosed letter from Purser [James C.] Douglass. Gives directions for delivering certain "course Wool".

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [Dover], from SAM[UEL] E. THOMSON, Newark, [Del.], Feb. 11, 1853.

Calls attention to a petition being circulated in Newark asking the repeal of the town charter. Urges passage of the amendment to the charter asked by the Town Commissioners.

Opposition comes almost entirely from those who object to reasonable taxation for streets, schools and similar community needs. Most of the petitioners are single men without property.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Dover], from FRED W. GRAYSON, Office of N. American & N. S. Gazette, [Philadelphia], Feb. 11, 1853.

As Secretary of the Board of Trade of Philadelphia, asks Mr. duPont's support of a bill to allow the United States to construct an "ice harbour" at Reedy Island. Philadelphia merchants favor it.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.5cm.

[CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover], from SAMUEL HILLES, Wilmington, [Feb.] 12, [18]53.

Expresses implacable opposition to a pending lottery application, believing that each additional permit will make elimination of this form of gambling harder. Considers those already authorized a disgrace to Delaware and a hardship to other States.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, from P. N. BRENNAN, "Louviers", [Del.], Feb. 13, 1853.

[Rev.] John Scanlan Walsh greatly appreciates Mr. duPont's support of his bill. Alludes to a farm in Kent County which seems a great bargain. Regrets the loss of the Canal Bill, but suggests that coal may be shipped by rail to New Castle which "would make a better shipping port than Wilmington". Charles [I. duPont, Jr.] had an encouraging interview about an order for Army blankets. Mentions Col. . . . Crossman, Mr. . . . Warren and Mr. . . . Churchill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [Dover], from H. TODD, [n. p.], Feb. 16, 1853.

Estimates a certain portion of "the Camp Ground Tract" at 43 1/4 acres.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 7.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, Del., Feb. 16, 1853.

Plans to board with Mrs. . . . Gemmill at \$5.00 per week for herself and two children "which I think is reasonable considering the high cost of provisions of every kind in New Castle". Refers to Mrs. . . . Hanson and daughter Ella Her children are recovering from whooping cough. Is hurt that the members of her husband's family do not return her visits.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm. [Enclosure]

[CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover], from JAMES BOOTH, New Castle, [Del.], Feb. 16, 1853.

Opposes a proposal to incorporate the Town of New Castle, arguing that its present powers are adequate. Encloses a protest bearing forty-four signatures. Also opposes a referendum on a new State constitutional convention, especially the clause extending voting time to four days. Expected the defeat, in New Jersey, of "the air-line rail road". Is horrified by a bill offered in the [Delaware] House by [Joshua S.] Valentine which would "overturn from its very foundations the whole system of law relating to the domestic relations of Husband and Wife". Similar action by Pennsylvania and other "large States" is a warning, not a precedent.

A. L. S. 3 pp. + 3 19.5cm. x 24cm. [Enclosure]

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [Dover], from D[ANIEL] M. BATES, Wilm[ington], Feb. 17, 1853.

Offers a bill to establish procedures for conveyance of title from a trust upon the death, disability or refusal of a trustee. Has adapted an English statute to Delaware requirements. Judge [Willard] Hall approves the bill. Hopes Mr. duPont will introduce it if Judge [Samuel] Harrington also assents. Suggests Mr. [James] Deleplaine as House sponsor.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13cm. x 21cm.

CH[ARLES] I. DUPONT, [Dover], from [COL.] A. G. WATERMAN, Phila[delphia], Feb. 18, 1853.

Promises the journal of a convention to plan a Revolutionary War monument to be erected by the original States, and additional data relating to the proposal. Pennsylvania has passed a bill supporting it; hopes the other legislatures now in session will do so. Refers to Delaware's delegates, Messrs. . . . Bayard and J. M. Clayton.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

CHARLES [I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [COMMANDER] S[AMUEL] F. D[U]P[ONT, U. S. N., Washington, D. C.],

Describes his efforts to insure confirmation of Charlie's [Charles I. duPont, Jr.] appointment. Thinks it can be carried if the Senate goes into executive session but there is still risk of failure. [Senator James A.] Bayard [Jr.] has been very helpful. Also mentions Messrs. . . . Irvine, [Stephen R.] Mallory, [Presley] Spruance and [J. W.] Houston, Secretary [of Navy John P.] Kennedy and [President Millard] Fillmore.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12cm. x 18cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Dover], from C. F. AIKIN, Wilmington, Feb. 23, 1853.

Informs his senator, with an implied threat, that most "dealers" in the County object to the \$200 license fee for "store-keepers", the prohibition of liquor sales to minors and Negroes, and the complicated process of obtaining a license stipulated in the pending Temperance Bill. Will accept a \$50.00 license without protest if the other features of the bill are deleted.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 23cm.

CH[ARLES] I. DUPONT, [Dover], from IS. A PENNY-PACKER, Phoenixville, [Penna.], Feb. 26, 1853.

Acknowledges and approves his speech about Church property. Has found Catholics excellent citizens when fairly treated, "especially when educated". Favors the extension of common schools, since "ignorance [rather] than sect" breeds poor citizenship. Hopes the Whig Party may still rally and win eventual victory under "[John M.] Clayton and [Edward] Everet[t] and [James C.] Jones and [William Henry] Seward", all fit successors of [Henry] Clay and [Daniel] Webster. [Rev. Nicholas] Ridgely's memory is still honored in Phoenixville. Refers to Rev. D. A. Nichols and family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 20.5cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, JR., Wilmington, from JAMES C. DOUGLASS, "Buena Vista", Chippewa P. O., Del., March 9, 1853.

Regrets "the neglect of the Senate to confirm your nomination as Purser". Hopes [President Franklin] Pierce will re-submit it. Would have tendered his own resignation earlier had he known Mr. duPont's wishes.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 21.7cm.

[Found with letter of March 24, from C. I. duPont to C. I. duPont, Jr.]

CHARLES I. DUPONT, JR., Wilmington, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Washington, [D. C.], March 24, 1853.

Outlines for his son the efforts being made to secure his appointment [as Purser]. May not succeed, but will do all he can. Refers to [U. S. Senators John M.] Clayton and [James A.] Bayard, [Jr.], Dr. . . . Merrit of Middletown, [Del.], Mr. [James] C.] Dobbin, [Secretary of War] Jefferson Davis, and the President [Franklin Pierce]. Says there are many applicants for the post. Sends messages to members of his family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, April 26, 1853.

Passed his bar examination last evening and was commended for his knowledge of the law. Tried a case this morning but lost it, the evidence being "dead against" him. Was complimented for his handling of it. Is determined, "if my sight should be spared, . . . to elevate . . . even more . . . that position in society which our family maintained during father's [Henry M. Ridgely] life." Has rented an office, since his father's widow [Mrs. S. A. Ridgely] did not offer him the use of the "old" one.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, May 13, 1853.

Writes from his nicely furnished new office, of which he is as proud "as a child with a handsome toy". Has purchased a toupee and shaved off his whiskers, which changes his appearance greatly. Is eager for his visit with her. Mentions an investment.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, May 20, 1853.

Tells of the illness of William's [Tilden] wife and the death of Charles' [Tilden] widow, Mrs. Mary P. Kinny. Is constantly worried about Harry [Ridgely] who is "the most delicate child I ever knew". Alludes to Mr. [Charles I.] duPont, Mr. . . . Finegan and Mrs. [James] Couper.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle], June 15, 1853.

Acknowledges gifts to her children from Ann and Mary [duPont]. Is leaving for a visit to "Willy" [Mrs. Alexander Johnson], though she fears the summer climate downstate. Refers to Mrs. [S. A.] Ridgely.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11cm. x 17.4cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, July 7, 1853.

Writes of Mrs. [S. A.] Ridgely, [Mrs.] Mary Ridgely and members of the duPont family. Was much pleased with the appearance and behavior of Harry and Molly [Ridgely]. "Eugene [Ridgely] is quite attentive to Miss [Mary Ann] Mifflin" of Camden, [Delaware]. Engineers are working on the Delaware

Railroad, the route of which is shown in the last issue of the *Delaware State Reporter*. Is preparing for admission to practice before the Court of Chancery in September. Has little business, "but this is . . . a very dull season with the lawyers, and they are all complaining".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, Del.], Aug. 29, 1853.

Thinks Ann much like [Rev. Nicholas Ridgely] in character, mind and spirit. Refers to her children, and recent social calls.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], Sept. 26, 1853.

Still grieves for Nicholas. Asks advice in choosing between board at \$6.00 weekly or renting a house at \$75.00 to \$80.00 a year. Increasing demand has raised rents "very much" in the past year. Harry [Ridgely] is attending school. Appreciates duPonts' assistance in managing her property.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [EUGENE [RIDGELY], Dover, Dec. 8, [18]53.

Announces his intention of marrying Mary Ann Mifflin of Camden on December 19, in the words, "The Major is going to take to himself a wife". Hopes he has not offended his sister by his previous silence, but their plans have just been completed.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.4cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Dec. 23, 1853.

Eugene [Ridgely] was married "last Thursday" in Philadelphia to Mary Ann Mifflin "according to the ceremony of the Friends". They returned home last evening. The family considers the bride "the very woman for Eugene". Anticipates a lonely Christmas. Alludes to the affairs of Mrs. [Sally Ann] Ridgely and the Comegys family, and to Mr. [P. N.] Brennan.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.9cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MRS.] MARY [T. RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], Dec. 28, 1853.

Acknowledges a Christmas gift from Mr. duPont [to Harry Ridgely] which will assure his education. Appreciates other kindnesses which have made her living conditions easier. In-

quires about business matters, and refers to the children of both families, especially to Amy's [duPont] deep attachment to her mother. Was pleased to hear of Eugene's [Ridgely] marriage. "What a droll fellow he is".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 19.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON], Mispillion, Del., Jan. 9, [1854].

Tells of Christmas and New Years celebrations, her children, a "pig killing last week", a planned trip to Dover, and Mr. . . . Breck. Acknowledges a gift from Ann. Describes her new cloak.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near Milford, Del.], Jan. 20, 1854.

Has obtained some "beautiful collar patterns, one already drawn off on muslin"; and a pair of [embroidered] undersleeves, a beautiful pattern, but "tedious". Asks for a recipe for a cake requiring few eggs, promised her by Mrs. [S.] F[rancis] duPont. Refers to Eugene's [Ridgely] recent marriage, Mary's [duPont] absence from the family New Year's gathering, and progress of her own sons Henry and Nicholas [Johnson].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Feb. 15, 1854.

Discusses the payment of board to his stepmother [Sally Ann Ridgely] and other sources of friction with her. Fears "Aunt [Mammy] Margaret" will not recover; "when she is gone the last link that bound us to our old home will be broken".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Feb. [15], 1854.

"Aunt [Mammy] Margaret" died last night, from old age. Thinks her property should be used to pay for her funeral and "a nice tombstone", since she left no legal heirs. Her death breaks "the last link to our once-loved home in Dover".

[A note in the hand of Mrs. Henry Ridgely, daughter-in-law of Edward signed "M. L. R., 1935" identifies "Aunt Margaret" as a colored woman long a retainer of the Ridgely family, who served as Edward's nurse in his infancy. Another notation adds a reminiscence of her from Edward's schooldays.]

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from M[ARY, MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], March 15, 1854.

Mentions her brothers William and Edmund [Tilden], her household duties and her children in explaining tardiness in writing.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 22.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near Milford, Del.], March 28, [c. 1854].

Has just returned from Dover where she found Virginia [Mrs. Henry Ridgely] improving though still ill. Mentions Mary Ann [Mrs. Eugene Ridgely], Emma . . . , and Mrs. . . . Mason.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, April 2, 1854.

Asks news of Mr. [Charles I.] duPont who was seriously ill when Ann last wrote. Refers to her skill as a nurse.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MRS.] E[LIZA] WOODALL, Dover, April 9, 1854.

Reports that "Miss Maria" has arrived safely. Believes it will prove satisfactory to have her in the family. Recollection of "your mother's" [Sally (Banning) Ridgely] kindness to the unfortunate prompted her to make this move. Suggests that the duPonts board with her "next winter".

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

CHA[RLE]S I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from EDWARD RIDGELY, Dover, April 13, 1854.

Gives the details of the "pretended sale of Hollingsworth's interest in the wood-lease and lease on Fox Hall farm". Believes the terms were made ambiguous by . . . Chandler and his attorney, . . . Comegys, to mislead bidders. W. Walker, who bid in an engine and certain buildings, refuses to complete the purchase. Mr. Walker adds a note asking that no compromise be made with Chandler whose conduct he considers deliberately dishonest.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], April 29, 1854.

Is delighted to hear of Mr. [Charles I.] duPont's complete recovery. Describes Dr. [James] Couper's treatment of Harry's [Ridgely] swollen glands. Enjoyed *The Christian Visitors*, *Blount's Lectures*, and the account of William Gordon who died under much the same circumstances as Nicholas [Ridgely] did. Received an encouraging letter from her brother William [Tilden] whom she had feared was a victim of consumption "which has brought all our family to an early grave".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 22.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MRS.] M[ARGARET] A. COMEGYS, Dover, May 4, 1854.

Acknowledges a letter of sympathy. Gives the circumstances of the death of a young "sister" whose two children she would like to take into her family. Is however resigned to leaving them in the care of their father and "dear Mrs. . . . Linelan". Refers to Mr. [Charles I.] duPont's recent serious illness and to her own daughters.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, May 14, 1854.

Has "enough business to encourage" him. Plans a visit to Wilmington. Dover, after having had legislative or [constitutional] convention sessions during three successive winters, seemed dull this year. Hopes the duPont's will stay in Dover during the entire session of the Assembly next session. Mentions Dr. [Isaac] Jump's little girl and members of the Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

GEORGE L. CALLEY, [near Dover], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Wilmington], May 27, 1854.

Discusses with his tenant plans for hauling fencing lumber, lime, and cordwood. Encourages him in his work and tells of authorizing Mr. [Edward] Ridgely to make a deed for the schoolhouse lot. Suggests improvements for the schoolhouse.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, May 28, 1854.

Mentions a recent visit with the duPonts, the delicious Dover strawberries, Mr. and Mrs. . . . Carrow, Miss Maria Lowery and members of the Ridgely family. Mr. [Joseph] Smithers has died.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

CHA[RLE]S I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from EDW[ARD] F. DENNISON, Art Union Free Gallery, Philad[elphia], June 13, [18]54.

Has learned that the artist will sell the picture in which Mr. duPont is interested for \$65.00. Asks a prompt decision.

[Memorandum signed A. R. dP. identifies it as the "sketch of the two children hanging in parlor".]

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, July 16, 1854.

Offers his services "as a brother" in certain legal matters involving . . . Chandler and . . . Hollingsworth's administrator or on any other business. Has recovered from an illness.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near Milford, Del.], Aug. 4, [1854].

Complains of the heat, the mosquitoes and her [aged] mother-in-law's fretfulness. Discusses the trials of a farmer's wife. Would like Harry [Johnson] to spend a month with the duPont's in the fall to recover from the ague. Writes of Nich[olas Johnson], Ned and Mary [Ridgely] and members of the duPont family. Kent County has been "sickly" during the past two years.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 10, 1854.

Is glad Ann is becoming better acquainted with Virginia [Ridgely]. Urges her to visit Dover oftener, for although the town has changed old associations can be easily renewed. "The 'Know Nothings' are still on the increase in this neighborhood".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near Milford, Del., Sept.] 13, [1854].

Has no "girl" and so is much confined by her household duties. Refers to Ann's recent visit to Dover and Milford, and to the duPont children. Nick [Johnson] has [Malaria]. Was sorry to hear of the death of "Mrs. Henry duPont's child" of whom Amy [duPont] was so fond. Is anxious for the [Delaware] Railroad to be finished.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Oct. 12, 1854.

Is glad to arrange the "Fox Hall" payments as his sister suggests since he is now convinced it is fair to her. Alludes to Henry, Nicholas and Mrs. [Sally Ann] Ridgely.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Oct. 19, 1854.

In thanking his sister for a gift, remarks that she has always held the place in his life that would have been their mother's had she lived. Mentions [Sally Ann Ridgely] and "the Fox Hall money". Is sorry Mary [duPont] is no better.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HON. J[OHN] M. CLAYTON, [Dover], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [near Wilmington], Oct. 22, 1854.

Expresses his admiration and friendship for Mr. Clayton. Discusses political matters and especially regrets "the proscription of all foreigners and particularly the poor oppressed Irish Catholics . . .". Recalls with pride the welcome received by his ancestors who escaped from the misgovernment and oppression of France.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Nov. 6, 1854.

Is worried about her health. A two-week session of the Supreme Court, "quite long . . . for this County", has just closed. Is now active in politics, which he ordinarily considers "an unpleasant as well as an unprofitable business", in protest against "this new party . . . [Know-Nothings] whose principles have been proscriptive of men, . . . whose only aim is to put down a class of our fellow-beings". Trusts Delawareans will not let themselves "be made the tools of designing demagogues". Will call on Mrs. . . . Buck and lend her any books her son needs. Has dissolved a business association with Mr. . . . Ingram, who is about to be married and open an office elsewhere. A son [Daniel Ridgely] was born "this day week" to Eugene and Mary Ann Ridgely.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Esq., Wilmington, from JOHN M. CLAYTON, "Buena Vista", Del., Nov. 9, 1854.

Is "not satisfied with the K[now] N[othing] ticket" and intends to vote "the Independent Ticket made at Del[aware] City". Reminds Mr. duPont of "the treatment we received from Mr. [President Franklin] Pierce and his administration last spring". Marked "confidential".

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

CH[ARLES] I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from A. W. WATERMAN, 3rd St. below Walnut, Phila[delphia], Nov. 21, 1854.

Asks him to introduced "the [Revolutionary War] monument question" to the General Assembly. Hopes the Governor may mention the subject in his address. Favorable action has been taken by New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Georgia; only one more state is needed. Would like to see Mr. duPont as the Trustee from Delaware.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, [c. 1855]

Only a chance ride saved him from having to walk from the boat landing at Mahon's River, since "there were no stages to convey the passengers to Dover". Rumors that he plans to marry Mary Stites are unfounded. "Fancy Names" are fashionable for children. Recent examples are "Coralie" Cowgill, and "Ella Ophelia" Murphy. Asks if Mr. [John M.] Clayton has removed "Mr. d[uPont]'s objections to the 'Know Nothings' and their principles". Refers to "little Dan" [son] of Eugene and Mary Ann [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

W[ILLIA]M H. ASPINWALL, Esq., [no address], from [CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. 1855).

Explains the financial situation of Mr. W[illia]m Breck, saying it may be necessary to sell his farm near Dover. Asks for a mortgage of \$3,000.

A. D. U. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Dover], Jan. 13, 1855.

Teases his wife about having "a sewing spell on". Persuaded General . . . Tilham, of Talbot County, Maryland, a railroad enthusiast seeking a Delaware franchise, to connect his line with the Delaware Railroad at the State line. Wants Mr. [Joseph R.] Chandler's speech in Congress on "Know-Nothingism" sent "down to Peter I have never opened my mouth on Catholicism and do not intend to The American Party will fall to pieces in two years".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], Jan. 19, 1855.

Has her brother's children in her care. Constantly fears Ridgely Tilden will drown while exploring the waterfront. Refers to Amy's [duPont] unusual attachment to her mother. Hopes Ann will visit her before joining her husband in Dover. Mary Johns is to be married. Lizzie (Booth) Duvall has an exceptionally tiny infant.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16.4cm. x 20.4cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Milford, Del.], from C[HARLES] I. D[U]P[ONT, Dover], Feb. 7, 1855.

Is concerned about Amy's [duPont] illness, but considers his wife a competent physician. Reports that "we are gaining ground slowly with our Rail Road though it is uphill work". Refers to . . . Wilson's anticipated "bliss with Miss C." whom he will join in Scotland. "No letter received from Mr. [William H.] Aspinwall, the Rich are cold."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 20.4cm.

[CHARLES I. [DUPONT, [Dover], from JOHN M. CLAYTON, Washington, [D. C.], Feb. 10, 1855.

Favors "the measure endorsing the Rail Road" and "the bill and plan of Judge [S. M.] Harrington". Inquires about "the claim for the Rail Road".

A. L. S. 1 p. 10cm. x 16cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover, Feb. 27, 1855.

"The temperance bill passed today". Is glad its proponents may test the experiment and that his own vote was not required for he would have been under fire from both the American and the Democratic parties. The railroad bill also passed. Mentions Charlie Breck, Mr. . . . Stevenson, and Mr. . . . Hazard.

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, March 10, [18]55.

Aunt [Mary] Morris died last night of "prostration from old age". Though a life-long Episcopalian she will be buried in the Presbyterian churchyard, presumably "by the desire of Dr. [William] Morris and Anna Maria" [Morris]. A temperance bill has roused "much opposition" in Kent County. Fails to see how it can benefit Wilmington "while they have hourly communication with Philadelphia". Dover is dull after the "excitement of Railroad Bills, temperance bills, etc." Refers to the expiration of Mr. [Charles I.] duPont's term as [State] Senator.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from HARRY M. RIDGELY and MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, Del.], May 4, [1855].

Harry reminds his aunt of a promised shovel and hoe "to keep the weeds out of [mother's garden] for her". Mary explains why she let her son write the note.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17.5cm. x 22cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near Milford, Del.], May 14, [1855].

Made a bonnet of the black lace Ann sent her. Will not visit Wilmington this summer but will "wait for the Railroad, at least . . . till it is finished to Dover". Wants a pattern of "sacks and pants" for Nick [Nicholas Johnson] who is "outgrowing frocks". Mrs. [Bethuel] Watson, daughter of [William] Tharp, lost a set of new parlor furniture through a shipwreck. Inquires about Amy's [duPont] new governess, "the fair", and whether a good English straw bonnet can be bought for "four or five dollars".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, May 16, 1855.

Explains the legal status of a lost note and the steps Mr. [Charles I.] duPont should take to protect his equity in it. Sends a playful message to Harry and Amie [duPont].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.6cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, June 7, 1855.

Envies the duPonts their feast of strawberries, for the crop around Dover failed. Comments on the difficult "Cooper will case"; the breaking of . . . Davis' will; the intense unpopularity of . . . Rogers; Willie's [Johnson] confirmation at the recent Episcopal convention at Milford [Delaware], and . . . Comegys, . . . Chandler and [Charles I.] duPont. His own vision is better than at any time since "that spell of sickness".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, Del.], July 22, 1855.

Acknowledges a kindness. Finds Ann's friendship her "greatest comfort" next to religion. Is ill and despondent. Will be glad to send Harry [Ridgely] to Wilmington for a vacation. Mentions Isabel, Rebecca and Ridgely [Tilden], and Harry duPont.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17.5cm. x 22cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], Aug. 22, 1855.

Wants Harry [Ridgely] sent home from an extended visit with the duPonts before school opens "on Monday". Is in poor health and fears her lungs are affected. Is seeking a maid, preferably colored.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near Milford, Del.], Sept. 2, 1855.

Expects a visit from Ann. Regrets not seeing Aunt Mary [Hillyard]. Seldom sees Henry or Virginia [Ridgely], who have had much company, "sometimes fifteen and twenty at a time". Church is so far she can seldom go. "I have no one even to converse with". Mrs. Purnell Lofland and several other young neighbors have recently died. Alludes to "an awful accident" which befell Mrs. . . . Connell's "adored" son.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 14, 1855.

Would like to accompany the duPonts to Niagara Falls, but business in Court of Chancery & Orphans Court detains him. Can seldom leave "without neglecting something". Aunt Mary Hillyard need not fear he will marry Mary Stites. Has no news beyond "these little bickerings and jealousies between the *upper tens* of Dover" [had mentioned Mrs. . . . Comegys, Mrs. Sally Ann Ridgely, Mrs. . . . Clarke, Mrs. . . . Harrington and "the love affair of Maria Comegys and Charles Lore"]. Refers to Mary's [duPont] poor health, a bond for Mr. [Charles I.] duPont, and the duPont children.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.7cm.

[MISSES] AMY and MARY [DUPONT, near Wilmington], from A. R. [MRS. CHARLES I. D[U]P[ONT], Niag[a]ra Falls and Buffalo, [N. Y.], Sept. 23, 1855.

Reminds Amy to be obedient, studious, and prompt at school during her absence. Regrets that the French teacher has not arrived.

Tells Mary of attending church in Niag[a]ra Falls and in Buffalo, and of her delight in the Falls. Has not been well, despite care of diet. Comments on the speed of modern travel. Promises to write when she and Mr. duPont reach Louisville

[Kentucky]. "Of course" she did not go alone for the mail in Niag[a]ra Falls, "though this is a little place I feel I could walk all over without any fear".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MISS] AMY [DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [MRS. ANN R. DUPONT], Bells Tavern (100 miles from Louisville), Sept. 30, 1855.

Tells of the difficulty of getting accommodations on the stage from Mammoth Cave to Louisville and says that it may be necessary to go to Bowling Green by stage and then take the steamboat. Is bringing little Harry [duPont] a fish without eyes and a crab in a vial from Echo River. Met Governor [Robert P.] Letcher of Kentucky and his niece, Miss White, Mr. Jones and others of his party at Mammoth Cave and joined them. Also tells of meeting a very pleasant English lady travelling here who intends to write a book. Suggests that Cousin Gabri[elle Shubrick] and Aunt Julia [Shubrick] spend next summer here.

A. L. U. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, [c. Nov. 23, 1855].

Though he left Wilmington only this morning is impelled to write at once, telling his sister how much their love for one another means to him and how lonely the lack of any such affectionate companionship in Dover makes him. Had an uncomfortable trip, since the *St. Nicholas*' failure to sail forced him to take "the Smyrna boat" and travel the last eighteen miles by stage. Hopes Mary [duPont] has recovered.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from WILL[IAMINA, MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], Nov. 23, [1855].

She has delayed her trip, hoping that the railroad will be completed from Dover to Wilmington by Christmas. "Going up alone in the steamboat" is very unpleasant. for one must be at the landing before daylight. Refers to Mary [duPont]; Ned [Ridgely], [Dr.] Henry and Virginia [Ridgely]; Mrs. Louisa duPont and her infant son; Alexis duPont's accident; Mr. . . . Brinckly and Mr. . . . Tharp. Has sent to Philadelphia for a set of furs.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle], Dec. 6, [1855].

Will spend a few days at "Louviers" after Mary Bateman has paid a promised visit to New Castle.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 20.6cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], Dec. 17, 1855.

Invites Amie [duPont] to attend "the exhibition". Will meet her "at the cars". Alludes to a recent visit to Wilmington, mentions children of both families, Major . . . Young and [his daughter?] Ada . . . who is just twelve hours Amie's junior.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.4cm. x 19.9cm.

CALEB SIPPLE, Dover, from C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [near Wilmington, ante 1856].

Asks Mr. Sipple to obtain Miss Angelica Reed's price for the lease or purchase of her sawmill property. Plans to sell timber from "Fox Hall", using either [Angelica] Reed mill or a steam sawmill for processing it. Explains why he thinks the sale of the "wood Lease" would be unprofitable. Terms to Miss Reed will be cash, with advice on "some first rate investments at 8 or 9 per cent".

A. Df. S. 3 pp. 17.8cm. x 22.6cm.

[Same sheet contains entry below].

JOHN McCANN, [n. p.], from [CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, ante 1856].

Sends his note for \$1144.00 in payment for two mules [spinning jennies], and orders a third "of 286 spindles" similar to the others. States the terms of a trade-in involving certain looms.

A. Df. U. [incomplete], 1 p. 17.8cm. x 22.5cm.

[On same sheet with entry above].

[CHARLES I. DUPONT, Jr., n. p.], from C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, c. 1856].

Wishes his son to use his own judgment about resigning from "the [duPont] firm" but suggests "next July" as the best time for him to withdraw. Mentions Henry, Alfred and Bidermann [duPont] as others concerned in his decision. Approves his indifference to financial considerations, but finds it unusual "in the race of accumulation which seems to pervade all minds in this country". Mentions Victor, Harry, Mary and Amy [duPont]; Thomas Bayard's wedding; and the prosperity of paper mills. Hopes the Democrats win the election, as "new notions as regards naturalization laws or Negro sympathy are not likely to be well received".

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from GAW-MACALETH CO., Philad[elphia], Jan. 5, 1856.

Encloses a certificate for Beaver Meadow Railroad stock [for the heirs of Rev. Nicholas Ridgely].

L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

H. C. CAREY, [no address], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", near Wilmington, Jan. 27, [18]56.

Looks forward to Dr. . . . Elder's lecture [on economics]. Deplores that "our character as a nation is not reflective of future consequences"; both the law and business practices encourage "selfish action for the time being" at the expense of stable prosperity. Mentions a "pamphlet on American labor" and the prospects of the railroad industry.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Feb. 9, 1856.

Regrets that Nicholas' [Ridgely] will gives him no power, as trustee for his estate, to change investments deemed safe. Discusses the wording of a trust instrument in which Mr. and Mrs. [Charles I.] duPont are concerned.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

HON. J[OHN] M. CLAYTON, Washington, [D. C.], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], March 4, 1856.

Asks Mr. Clayton to help defend his brother [Samuel Francis duPont] against charges growing out of the action of the Naval Board. Reminds him of his own support when Mr. Clayton's enemies in the Whig party tried to prevent his election to the Senate. Is certain their long friendship has not been broken by recent political differences, now less pronounced, "for neither of us, I am sure, can go for [Millard] Fillmore".

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 19.8cm.

HON. JA[MES] A. BAYARD, [Jr.], U. S. Senate, [Washington, D. C.], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], March 7, 1856.

Refers to attacks upon his brother [Samuel Francis duPont] for his conduct on the Naval Board. Though he knows Mr. Bayard does not approve the law under which the action was taken, he is certain he will defend [Commander] duPont's personal integrity before the Senate if the matter is brought up there.

A. Df. S. [2 droughts] 1+2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [U. S. Senator] JA[MES] A. BAYARD, [Jr.], Washington, D. C., March 10, 1856.

Promises his support to Frank [Commander S. F. duPont] if he is attacked on the floor of the Senate. Disapproved the law creating the Naval Board and the Commander's judgment in some instances, but holds a high regard for his motives and character. Recalls their schooldays together, and hopes Frank will call upon him when next in Washington.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.6cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near Milford, Del.], March 13, 1856.

"The farmers' busy season" has started again, despite continued cold. Is occupied with patching and darning for her large family, including "two hands in the house besides those in the kitchen". There will soon be gardening and poultry tending. Thinks herself as happy as Virginia [Ridgely] who will not let her husband "keep hands in the house". Harry [Johnson] has returned to school. Inquires about Mr. . . . Taylor's widow and five small children. Supposes her sister is glad Mr. [Charles I.] duPont "has rented the Factorys". Speaks of "hanging whit nets" for the corners of the parlor.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 15cm. x 20cm.

[JOHN M.] CLAYTON, [Washington, D. C.], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], March 16, 1856.

Thanks Senator Clayton for his defense of his brother. Hopes [President Franklin] Pierce and [Secretary of the Navy James C.] Dobbin accept his advice regarding retirement of "inefficient fools". Is concerned about reports of his correspondent's poor health. "The Rail Road is doing wonders for Kent and Sussex [Counties, Delaware]. Is there no hope of Delaware's share of the public lands?" Refers to "a preemption right in those of central America if the treaty is abrogated".

A. Df. S. 3 pp. 12.4cm. x 19.9cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], April 12, [18]56.

Reminisces of [Rev.] Nicholas' [Ridgely] affection for Ann and their similarity in character. Acknowledges a gift. Hopes "wine and iron . . . will sustain [me] through the summer". Will be relieved when Ridgely Tilden's father sends for him. Asks about Ann's "pretty hemp carpet". Mentions Jannette Young.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 17.4cm. x 21.4cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], Boon Park, [Md.], Aug. 30, 1856.

Is enjoying a visit with girlhood friends. Has seen Mr. and Mrs. . . . Hardcastle of Castle Hall, Mrs. . . . Brown and Mrs. Angelina Goldsborough and Mr. [William] Delahay's family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], Oct. 13, 1856.

Has rented her house to "Dr. . . . Duvall who married Miss [Lizzie] Booth" and may either board in New Castle or move to Dover. Consulted Dr. . . . Wood in Philadelphia, who "examined my lungs as well as he could sitting down, and in my dress . . . [and found] nothing to indicate tubercles". He prescribed inhaling vapor of tar, exercise in the open, wearing flannel next to the skin and dressing warmly. Mr. [Theodore] Hyatt will take Ridgely [Tilden] as a student at his academy. Mentions Alfred duPont's death. Wishes to exchange a set of furs bought for eleven dollars, as she "was very much cheated in them".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 17.4cm. x 21cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from J[OSEPH] P. COMEGYS, Dover, Nov. 10, [18]56.

Announces the death of J[ohn] M. Clayton. Hopes Mr. duPont can attend the funeral and "officiate as one of the bearers".

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

[MISS] AMY [DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MRS. ANN R. DUPONT, near Milford, Del., c. 1857].

Announces their safe arrival at Aunt "Willie's" [Johnson] and describes her little baby [Anne duPont Johnson]. Harry [duPont] is much pleased with his cousins and enjoys running about with them. Mr. duPont returned to Dover early this morning and she expects to follow in a few days. Gives Amy directions about going to her aunt's and urges her to study. Everyone admired her daguerrotype very much. Mentions the Misses [Charlotte and Isabella] Grimshaw.

A. L. U. 3 pp. 12.5cm. x 19.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from LIZZIE [MRS. EDWARD] GILLILAN, New York, c. Jan. 1857.

Asks an opinion on "Doré by a Stroller in Europe . . . the first book in the family". Its author has been invited to contribute regularly to *Harper's [Weekly]*. Describes the projected new periodical. "Uncle John" is back from California. "Uncle

Johnny" also visited. Mentions Amy's [duPont] absence at boarding school, "our 'only son'", Julie and Clara [Gillilan], "mamma", a prospective ocean voyage, "Johnny Aspinwall's illness", Lucy's . . . baby, and her own German lessons.

A. L. S. [fragment] 4 pp. 13.5cm. x 20.7cm.

VICTOR DUPONT, [Wilmington], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Brandywine, [Del.], Jan. 24, 1857.

Explains a change in the wording of a bond given his three elder children, which now makes clear that a sum assigned them, equal to one he inherited through their mother's [Dorcas Van-Dyke] family, is "a gift made agreeable to mine and my second wife's feelings" and not payment of an obligation, as the original draft implied.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.6cm. x 19.9cm.

[CHARLES I. DUPONT, Jr., no address], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], Feb. 19, 1857.

"A Mr. Tasker" offered \$20,000 cash for the Dulany farm. Has accepted it, though he usually buys rather than sells real estate, and invested the proceeds "in stocks, and bonds of the Delaware Rail Road". Lists the securities shown. Mentions Victor and Mary [duPont].

A. Df. U. 2 pp. 12.6cm. x 19.8cm.

"WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Eden Hill", Del.], March 10, [c. 1857].

Virginia [Ridgely] is improving but her condition is still precarious and her recovery will be tedious. Reproves "Willy" for failure to write since her brief visit, which Virginia enjoyed.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

HON. CH[ARLE]S I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from S[AMUEL] M. HARRINGTON, Dover, March 13, 1857.

Refers to a recent defeat before the Assembly of his "proposal to improve the state of railroads" and the "selfish demagogues" who brought it about. Mentions Mr. . . . Smithers, Mr. . . . McLane and "Gen[era]l . . . Tilghman's road". Approves Mr. duPont's "suggestion to invite the building of granaries at a stipulated rent". The small note bill, which goes into effect July 1, is "generally disapproved of here".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, March 21, 1857.

Alludes to the "press of business and the constant state of excitement which I was in during the session of the legislature". Last winter's business was "quite profitable"; is to receive a thousand dollar fee "in one case before the legislature". Judge [Caleb S.] Layton is reported engaged to cousin Anna M[aria] Morris. The recent outbreak of smallpox in Dover is over.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.4cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from WILL[IAMINA, MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near Milford, Del., c. June 1857].

"You and Mr. [Charles I.] duPont feel as near to me as parents". Describes a hot, uncomfortable trip home from Wilmington. Mentions her own husband and children, and Mary Ridgely. "I suppose it is not natural for persons to like to come down the country as well as to go up".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.9cm. x 20cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], June 7, 1857.

Wishes to borrow "thirty or forty" dollars until a remittance from her brother arrives. Plans a trip to Chestertown [Maryland]. Feels she can no longer offer [William Tilden's] children a home, since her health requires more attention than she can give it with so large a family, and her own son and daughter are her first responsibility.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16cm. x 20.4cm.

CHA[RLES]S I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from H. W. DUCHET, [n. p.], June 20, 1857.

Declines an invitation for that day but hopes to come soon to renew memories of forty years past. Still has the "mathematical rule" which he received in an exchange with his friend when both were students at Mount A[ir]y, [Pennsylvania].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13.8cm. x 21.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Hygea Hotel, Old Point Comfort, Va., June 30, 1857.

Will accompany Sophia [duPont] home after Frank [Capt. S. F. duPont, U. S. N.] sails for China tomorrow. Tells of the official reception to [U. S. Ambassador to China, Hon. William B.] Reed. "Frank had a handsome collation and crowds poured

in to drink his wine and eat cold ham, tongues, etc." His brother "seems pleased with his command" [*U. S. S. Minnesota*] but he does not envy him. Visited Fortress Monroe. Plans to see Norfolk [Virginia] and some truck farms nearby said to yield "5 or six thousand dollars rent from farms of 200 acres".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

SOPHIE [MRS. SAMUEL F. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, post Aug. 23, 1857].

Expresses her sympathy following the death of [Alexis I. duPont, brother of Mrs. S. F. duPont and] cousin of Charles I. duPont. Gratefully recalls his attentiveness to her own husband during a recent serious illness. Mentions A. I. duPont's widow, children and other sisters.

A. Df. U. 2 pp. 14cm. x 23cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [MRS.] HELEN ROGERS, Rahway, [N. J.], Aug. 24, [1857].

Was distressed to read "of another fatal explosion on the Brandywine" in which a member of the duPont family was killed or injured. Refers to the intimacy of various branches of the family. Mentions her own sisters Elizabeth [Gillilan] and Julie [née Wright]; her brother William . . .; and Williamina [Porter] whose son Edward [Porter] was recently graduated with honors from Yale.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13cm. x 16.7cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Aug. 26, 1857.

Extends sympathy to the relatives of Alexis I. duPont. Has had [Christ] Churchyard "cleaned up" and obtained "enough subscribers to put a nice fence around the yard and put the yard in order. I am not going to rest until it is done."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.4cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 21, 1857.

Has "at last succeeded in having the old church yard cleaned up and a nice [board] fence put around it". Alludes to a previous discussion on the subject of marriage, and to the division of a "bill for repairing our family graves". Is depressed by the spirit of some who declined to contribute.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, New York, N. Y.], from AMY [MISS AMELIA ELIZABETH DUPONT], "Louviers", [near Wilmington], Oct. 2, [1857].

Misses her mother. Gives news of Aunt Sophie [Mrs. S. F. duPont], of brothers Harry and Charles [duPont] and of household affairs. Likes her schoolmates "the Miss Laytons" who "Miss Bell" said were "near cousins" of Amy's.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 10.3cm. x 16cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, New York, N. Y.], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], Oct. 3, 1857.

Arrived home safely. Refers to Charlie's [Charles I. duPont, Jr.] presence in Wilmington, medical treatment Mary [duPont] is receiving in New York, and "our new cousin Miss . . . Hunter, . . . a descendant of Abraham duPont who emigrated at the revocation of the Edict of Nantes".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12cm. x 18.7cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 49 E. 30th St., New York, N. Y.], from MRS. SOPHIE [DUPONT], "Louviers", [Del.], Oct. 7, [1857].

Worries over Mary's [duPont] illness. Harry [duPont] was delighted with the jackstraws and a bow and arrow bought for him. Refers to an offer Ella [Mrs. William Breck] has received for the estate "Rockby".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 49 E. 30th St., New York, N. Y., from CHARLES I. DUPONT, [near Wilmington], Oct. 8-9, 1857.

Gives his wife directions for coming home by rail and ferry, pointing out that baggage cannot be checked through from New York to Wilmington, and insisting that George Breck or some other friend obtain her ticket and baggage check, as "the office . . . [is] no place for a lady". Has confidence in Dr. . . . Delafield's prediction of complete cure for Mary. "I hope to see her weeding the strawberry bed with you next summer." Gives news of the family, quotes stock prices, and refers to a business panic.

A. L. S. 7 pp. 12.3cm. x 18.7cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 49 E. 30th St., New York, N. Y.], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Oct. 10, 1857.

His sister Amelia [duPont] will relieve Ann when she can safely leave Mary [duPont]. Is thankful he retired before the present "awful business calamity" and that "the bulk of our values" are in Kent County lands. Pennsylvania banks will probably be forced to liquidate; "the western banks are greatly

stronger". Believes Delaware Railroad bonds are sound. Names firms that have recently failed, one of which would have seriously affected him "only twenty months ago". Louis McLane died recently. Their daughter Amy [duPont] is "at home stewing apples". Tells about the garden and renovation of Ann's room. Mentions a wedding at the . . . Milligans.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 24.7cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from W. WALKER, Dover, Oct. 12, 1857.

Wishes Mr. duPont to inquire about a shipment of guano, which proved short weight on delivery. Refers to other farm matters.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24.6cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], Nov. 7, 1857.

Is ill, despondent, and in straitened financial circumstances due to her brother's failure to make an expected remittance for the support of his children, left in her care. Hopes he will return from California in the spring and take them. Ridgely [Tilden] is to go with his grandfather. Mentions the illness of one of "Willy's" [Johnson] children.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 12cm. x 20.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, [ante 1858].

Hopes a recent letter has dispelled a misunderstanding between Ann and [Dr.] Henry and Virginia [Ridgely]. A false rumor of his own engagement is afloat. Refers to the capture in Dover of Dr. . . . Worrell's son on a charge of murder; a malicious, untrue rumor about "another person bearing the name of Ridgely"; court business and a prospective visit to the duPonts.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MARY [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], Jan. 25, 1858.

Mentions dividends due on certain investments. Has been prostrated by treatment for the after effects of pleurisy. Comments: "O these Doctors . . . I believe they kill half as many people as they cure".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 14.5cm x 18.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [MRS. NICHOLAS RIDGELY], New Castle, [Del.], Feb. 18, 1858.

Has been ill again. Has not yet heard from her brother. Hopes to find "a girl" but cannot pay so much as \$1.50 per week. Says, "I want you to be with me when I die".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 14.6cm. x 18cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, New Castle, Del., from DR. HENRY RIDGELY], Dover, April 16, 1858.

Considers it his duty to take both of their brother Nicholas' [Ridgely] children into his family when their mother dies. Hopes to overcome his wife's objections to assuming the responsibility for Henry [Ridgely]. Discusses the problems involved and various possible solutions to them. Mentions his own daughter Ruthanna [Ridgely].

A. L. U. 4 pp. 16cm. x 19.9cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, New Castle, Del., from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, April 16, 1858.

Has drawn up a will for Mary [T. Ridgely] but suggests an intestate settlement. Named [Charles I.] duPont executor instead of Ann because a man "is better calculated to attend to matters of this description". Mentions Rebecca Challenger.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, New Castle, Del.], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, April 19, 1858.

Is grieved to hear of Mary's [Ridgely] hopeless illness but is glad Ann can be with her. Comments on her faithful fulfillment of a promise to befriend Nicholas' widow. Mrs. [Sally Ann] Ridgely hopes Mary's funeral will be held from her house. Believes Virginia [Ridgely] will accede to Henry's wish to take Harry [Ridgely] into their home.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 11.8cm. x 19.3cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, New Castle, Del.], from [MRS.] S[ALLY] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, April 19, 1858.

Is glad Mary [Ridgely] wishes to be buried from [the Ridgely homestead] and will make all preparations for the funeral "upon the notice of her death". Is sorry Mary feels she has been "purposely slighted" by Mrs. Ridgely's failure to visit when passing through New Castle.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Dover], from "WILLIE"
[MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near Farmington, Del., c.
April 24, 1858].

A storm prevented her from attending Mary's [Ridgely] funeral. Inquires about her final illness, the funeral arrangements and plans for the Ridgely and Tilden children.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from W[IL-
LIA]M P. TILDEN, Chico, Calif., June 3, 1858.

Acknowledges a letter announcing the death of his sister, Mrs. [Mary T.] Ridgely. Appreciates Mrs. duPont's sisterly kindness to her throughout her widowhood. Approves the plans made for his own daughters who had been in their aunt's care, and those for his sister's orphans. Discusses certain debts to her estate. Mentions Miss Rebecca Challenger and, in unfriendly context, [Theodore] Hyatt.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 21.5cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, n. p.], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Aug. 13, 1858.

Cannot accompany his wife on a proposed trip because of the illness of Biderman [duPont]. Mentions Mr. . . . Barclay and Sophie [Mrs. S. F. duPont].

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.9cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 16, 1858.

The corn, wheat and vegetable crops have failed and "ruin seems to stare most of our farmers in the face". Ridicules the Congressional candidacy of "our dear Cousin William" [Morris]. Harry [Ridgely] is improving in conduct but is still extremely undisciplined and has "a distaste for anything in the shape of a book".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 31cm.

S. C. MORTON, JOHN WELCH, N. B. THOMPSON, DAVID S. BROWN, A. T. LEWIS, S. V. MERRICK, THO[MA]S KIMBER, Jr. & ISRAEL MORRIS, Committee of the Board of Trade, Philadelphia, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviere", Brandywine, [Del.], Oct. 30, 1858.

Analyzes, at the request of the committee, the causes of the business depression as it affects the textile industry. Explains the method of financing textile operations, some elements of which he believes cause speculative over-production and inflation of the price of raw materials. American plants also have relatively "little diversity of goods" because of their inability to

compete with European manufacturers in producing fabrics requiring much skilled labor and specialized equipment. The local farmers, who sell mainly for cash and rarely have fixed time payments, have not been affected by the industrial depression. Discusses the tariff, which he looks upon mainly as a convenient source of Federal revenue. Thinks some revisions may be called for but deplores frequent wide fluctuation in rates and does not believe that a high rate will cure the industrial depression while its causes remain. "Time and experience", and reduced inventories, "will effect the cure". Refers to his own experience of nearly forty years as a manufacturer.

A. Df. S. [3 draughts] 3pp.+4+3 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY, Dover, ante 1859].

Sends an accounting of the dividends due Nicholas' [Ridgely] estate, to be divided equally between Ann [duPont] and [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] for the maintenance of Molly and [Henry M. Ridgely]. Refers with relief to his own broken engagement.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [DR.] HENRY [RIDGELY, Dover], Jan. 7, [c. 1859].

Admits being too hasty in his protest over Harry's [Ridgely] tardiness in returning from Wilmington for school, but feels both discipline and the child's long-neglected scholastic progress require that he be held to rigid account for his time. Thinks Ann is jesting about his own chance of being chosen United States Senator, for "the Senate is a bold game to play for & there are certain gentlemen now venturing their prospects in this world & their hopes almost of the future on it"; he himself refuses to seek the office by disgraceful intrigues.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11cm. x 17.6cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from AMY [MISS AMELIA ELIZABETH DUPONT], Philadelphia, Jan. 8, 1859.

Begs to be allowed to return from school. Is homesick, unhappy, and thinks she is "getting the mumps". Mentions Mrs. . . . Bayard and Miss . . . Bayard.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13.3cm. x 20.7cm.

T. CLARKSON TAYLOR, Wilmington, from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], Feb. 1, 1859.

Has been prevented from accompanying his ten-year-old son Harry [R. duPont], whom he is entering in Mr. Taylor's school. Explains that the child has had "no regular study owing

to our District School being at some distance & the school itself not offering proper opportunities for improvement". The lad will board with Miss . . . Grimshaw.

A. Df. U. 1 p. 13cm. x 20.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from WILL[IAMINA, MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, near Milford, Del.], April 14, 1859.

Would appreciate roots and cuttings for her new garden. Asks Ann to purchase a straw bonnet, trimmed with "green plaid ribbon and lined with pink", at about \$5.00, since they are "so much prettier and cheaper in Wilmington than they are in Milford". Also wants material [for infant's clothing]. Dr. [Clayton A.] Cowgill reports Virginia [Ridgely] only slightly improved. Inquires about Ann's "new study".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 33cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., post April 14, 1859].

Acknowledges receipt of the bonnet. Gives further directions for the materials she needs. Mentions Virginia and Molly [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., post April 14, 1859].

Is ill following a complication of pregnancy. Gives symptoms and diagnosis. Repeats an order for materials.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 33cm.

"WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.], May 23, [1859].

Describes "the May party at the Hannah Moore's" [Academy]. Her own children, Fanny Brinckle, Miss . . . Waples and Priscilla . . . took part in a pretty pageant; with Miss Anna Brinckle she helped two of the teachers prepare its text. Will get "Willy's" materials when she goes to Philadelphia. Has been "busy painting pictures" with Amy's [duPont] friend Priscilla . . . as her present subject.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13cm. x 20cm.

"WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, ["Louviers", Del., c. June 1859].

Has purchased her sister's material [for an infant's layette] in Wilmington and sent it down. Discusses prices and quality. Suggests that "Willy" write "to Ned's intended" [Miss Elizabeth Comegys] if she cannot attend the wedding. Hopes the marriage will be happy. The bride is well spoken of, and "Amy [duPont] likes her".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY, Dover, ante June 1859].

Contains a portion of an explanation of a legal point. Speaks of "Willy", Mr. [Alexander] Johnson, and the Johnson children, of his stepmother [Mrs. Sally Ann Ridgely], and of Mr. . . . Humphreys.

A. L. S. [fragment] 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from "WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], June 9, [1859].

Asks the details of Edward's wedding plans. Is not pleased with his choice of a bride. Is much better, though often unable to "do anything at all". Wants roots and cuttings saved "for my garden this Fall". Refers to Mr. . . . Reed, Virginia [Ridgely], their stepmother, and the return of Captain [Samuel Francis] duPont [from a cruise].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, June 16, [18]59.

Will be married "Wed. evening at 8 1/2 o'clock" [to Elizabeth Comegys). Wants all his family present. Plans a trip of about ten days, and will have to endure "some parties on our return". [Christ Church] Vestry has called Rev. Mr. [Marshall] Smith, and has decided to "have the old church thoroughly repaired on the inside" and to hold regular services there after September 1, "for, I trust, all time to come". Inquires about replacing a lost railroad ticket.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13cm. x 20.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MRS. JULIA L. SHUBRICK, Philadelphia, June 29, [1859].

Is grieved to learn of the sudden death of Ann's sister [Mrs. Alexander Johnson].

A. N. S. 2 pp. 13.3cm. x 20.7cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [near Wilmington], from ALEX[ANDER] JOHNSON, Farmington, [Del.], July 3, 1859.

Acknowledges a letter enclosing notes of sympathy. Frequently recalls his wife's "lovely voice" and cannot realize she is dead. Thinks Ann the one best qualified to prepare the obituary. Asks her to take charge of "Willy's" jewelry during their daughter's childhood, and to make suitable disposition of her clothing. Refers to Mrs. . . . Tharp, Ann Lines, and his three children Henry, Nich[olas] and Annie [Johnson].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, July 3, 1859.

Expresses his shock and grief at learning "Willy" [Johnson] has died during his absence. Refers to previous deaths in the family, none of which affected him so intimately or came so completely without warning. On their [wedding] trip he and Lizzie [Elizabeth (Comegys) Ridgely] visited Philadelphia, Bethlehem, New York, West Point and back via New York and Philadelphia, where the tragic news reached them.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 20.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, July 17, [18]59.

Describes his wedding trip to Bethlehem, New York and West Point. Returned immediately upon learning of "Willy's" [Johnson] death. Rev. Mr. [Marshall] Smith has been in Dover and seems "very much of a gentleman". Believes he will be liked. "I sincerely trust we may be able to establish the Church in Dover upon a sure and firm foundation". Has not yet had Mary Ridgely's tombstone repaired because David Clayton, the only bricklayer in town, charges such "exorbitant" rates.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.4cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, [c. Sept. 22, 1859].

Lizzie [Ridgely] his bride, is improving after an illness. [Rev.] Mr. [Marshall] Smith preached in the Presbyterian church to "the largest congregation I think I have ever seen in that Church", and was favorably received. Repairs to fit "the old [Christ] Church" for services may not be completed before the end of October. "Old Swamey Saxton" died recently. Wants his bill for the clothing purchased for his wife sent at once, since he dislikes "to be in debt".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from VIRGINIA [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], Dover, [c. 1860].

Is recovering rapidly from a severe illness. Deeply appreciates Ann's kindness. Mentions her mother, Emma [Parker?], Harriet . . . , "Pet" [apparently her daughter Ruthanna Ridgely], Harry [Ridgely], "Juney" [Dr. Henry Ridgely], and Dr. [Layton A.] Cowgill.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12cm. x 19.4cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from H[ENRY] R. DUPONT, Del[aware] Mil[itary] Academy, [Wilmington], Feb. 11, 1860.

Likes school, his teachers and his classmates. Needs a cap to complete his uniform. Has not been very homesick. [see next entry.]

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [near Wilmington], from THE[ODORE] HYATT, [Wilmington, Feb. 11, 1860].

Asks Mrs. duPont to keep her son's letter for comparison with later ones. Thinks "he will do well".

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

[Written on same page as the entry above].

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Del., c. autumn 1860].

Promises some pies from the supply "in the storeroom", when she visits. Writes of the tasks they will work at together and sends messages to the rest of the Johnson family.

A. N. [S. implied] 2 pp. 14cm. x 18cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, ["Louviers", Del.], from [MRS.] R. S. READ CONNELL, "Tusculum", [Wilmington], Nov. 7, 1860.

Expresses her appreciation for Mr. duPont's friendly assistance as one of her late husband's executors.

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from JOHN C. GROOME, Elkton, Md., Dec. 8, 1860.

Acknowledges a letter of sympathy "for us and for my brokenhearted sister and family". Alludes to "poor Mat . . ." and "my dear son John" [Groome] in context implying their recent deaths. Mentions his daughters Maria, Lizzie and Janie [Groome].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [DR. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, c. 1861].

Disapproves the course of the seceded States in leaving the Union before "the commission of some overt act", but blames the Lincoln Administration and "those vile Northern Abolitionists" for the war. Thinks it impossible to subdue the South by force. Attacks the President, Cabinet and Congress for "illegal acts" and for violation of the Constitution. Complains of "the vile corruption which this vast outlay of treasure gives rise to".

A. L. [incomplete] 8 pp. 10cm. x 15.4cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, April 26, 1861.

His law practice and duties as [Delaware] Secretary of State fill his time. Denies he is "a secessionist" as he is accused of being, but thinks the South's grievance real and opposes coercion. Approves Governor [William] Burton's proclamation [calling for enlistments for home defense with voluntary Federal service]. Is convinced that Delaware will remain in the Union, but deplores meetings like those recently held in Wilmington and proposed for Dover, on the grounds they do no good and rouse much bitterness. Fears his sister and her husband are becoming "too much excited in relation to public affairs", to the detriment of Mr. duPont's health. Attacks the policies of the Lincoln Administration and "the vacillating course of that weak, timid man who now occupies the chair of State".

A. L. S. 8 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, Esq., Wilmington, from J. N. TRIMBLE, Baltimore, [Md.], May 11, 1861.

Tells of the rioting which occurred in Baltimore when troops were taken through the city without advance notice to the police. Feeling became bitter after a soldier wantonly shot a prominent young man who knew nothing of the disturbance. Mr. Trimble was then authorized by the Mayor to burn the bridges into the city to prevent further arrival of troops which Baltimoreans of both parties believed would produce conflict and heavy casualties. He likewise headed a contingent of non-uniformed volunteers raised to supplement police protection during the ensuing unrest. Admits his own sympathies are Southern and believes Maryland will secede, but insists he has made no move to force the issue. Wishes Mr. duPont to know the facts, since such violent accusations have been made against him. Authorizes him to tell "other fair-minded men at your pleasure or discretion". Accuses Administration men of tampering with mail.

A. L. S. 12 pp. 19.6cm. x 31cm.

HON. GEORGE P. FISHER, [Dover], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Brandywine, [Del.], May 20, 1861.

Regrets his inability to address "the Union Meeting at Dover". Since his correspondent considers him influential as "a well-known Breckenridge Democrat" he states his position specifically: "I am for the country & the Government". Advises his friends to "throw politics to the Dogs; . . . all party bias should be forgotten in the great effort to save our Union". Believes the South has no right to deny Americans their birthright of a country extending "from Maine to Florida and a clear line (I hope some day railroad) from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean", with the prestige and protection such national citizenship gives. The rebellion must be opposed by force. Secession without general consent is both legally and morally indefensible, and is a betrayal of the Democratic Party as well as of the Nation. No Delaware statesman has advocated secession, patriotism forbids it, and all the State's material interests bind it to the North. Will uphold the power of the United States even at the cost of war, "a relic of barbarism", with a clear conscience since "these Slavery politicians are now the aggressors". General [W. O.] Butler, "a noble Breckenridge Democrat" has expressed similar sentiments.

A. Df. S. 4 pp. 16.3cm. x 20cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Del.], Aug. 30, [c. 1861].

Writes affectionately to her niece who has just returned home, reminding her of the visit and telling her about her cousins Amy and Harry [duPont] and Mollie [Ridgely]. Sends a warm greeting to Harry [Johnson]. Finds the little girl much like her mother ["Willie" Johnson].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.9cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from MARGARET GRANT, Mullaugh, [Ireland], March 3, 1862.

Is delighted with a friendly letter from Mrs. duPont, written "just the same as if I were your equal". Is returning to America in the spring, cured of her "longing for Ireland". Describes destitution in that country due to crop failure and "Loan Banks". The Irish sympathize with the North. Appreciates Mrs. duPont's advice about returning and her help in handling her savings.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.4cm. x 18.4cm.

G. BARCUS ["Fox Hall", near Dover], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], April 25, 1862.

Suggests a plan to his farmer for clearing more land and hauling cordwood. Expects to cut 600 cords of wood a year so as

to clear land and get \$300.00 a year to pay for lime and grubbing. Discusses wages for this work and the yield per acre of corn and wheat in Kent county.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from HARRY [HENRY RIDGELY DUPONT], West Haverford, [Penna.], April 18, 1862.

Likes his school. Improves rapidly in French, writing and spelling. Asks for an occasional Wilmington paper and copy of *Harper's Weekly*. Will "take good care" of the latter. Mentions Dr. and Mrs. [James G.] Lyons [directors of the school] and members of his [own] family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from MISS] MARY [DUPONT], Scranton, [Penna.], July 14, [c. 1862].

Tells of social activities, five members of the family expected at the resort later, and her own plans for returning. Is anxious because the doctor has advised two weeks' delay in seeking "change of air" for little Frank [duPont?] after his serious illness. Supposes father [Charles I. duPont] "has been worried about those dreadful battles" and delay in capturing Richmond [Virginia]. George Breck, at Harpers' Ferry, [Virginia], is "very tired of camp life and disgusted because the Gov[ernment] won't grant them any furloughs" for occasional business trips to New York. His three months' enlistment expires late in August, but he expects active service before then.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16cm. x 20.5cm.

CHARLES [I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from REAR ADMIRAL S. F. DUPONT, U. S. S. *Wabash*, Port Royal, [S. C.], March 11, [18]63.

Complains of families who seek service releases for relatives who often refuse them when granted. Thinks the attack on Charleston [South Carolina] will be very hazardous without effective land support, but hopes it may be possible to win with ironclads, in which he has great faith. Comments on the elasticity the economy shows in absorbing an \$110,000,000 war budget, "when the country was thought to be in danger when it was proposed to give old [Andrew] Jackson three millions!" Warns his brother not to let his comments on naval plans and difficulties reach the newspapers. Sends messages to Charles' family. Mentions Captain [Daniel] Ammen, also an unnamed Captain who has just collapsed under the strain of blockade duty and will be greatly missed.

A. L. U. 8 pp. 13cm. x 20cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, [n. p.], from GENERAL [DANIEL] TYLER, [n. p.], Sept. 1, 1863.

Tenders a formal invitation to dinner.

A. L. S. 1 p. 13cm. x 20.4cm.

MRS. [ROBERT] ANDERSON, [no address], from MRS. A[NN] R[IDGELY] DUPONT, "Louviers", [Wilmington], Nov. 30, 1863.

Thanks Mrs. Anderson for a carte de visite and a signed picture of her distinguished husband, General Anderson.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

CHA[RLE]S [I.] DUPONT DE NEMOURS, Esq., [near Wilmington], from P. M. CORAND, Philad[elphi]a, Jan. 2, 1864.

Thanks the duPonts for kindness to his son Henri [Corand] during a recent visit. Is glad the youth could "see at home a noble family which . . . still believes that: Noblesse Oblige". Mentions relatives of his mother, inquiring if any of the same names appear in the duPont family records.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13.4cm. x 21cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del., from H. L. McCOMB, [Wilmington], March 3, 1864.

Extends an invitation to dinner at six o'clock on Saturday. The guests now asked are the first ever entertained "at my own Home".

A. N. S. 2 pp. 13cm. x 20cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, March 17, 1864.

Comments on their nephew Harry [Ridgely] who has just been dismissed from an academy at Newport . . . apparently for scholastic failure. Considers the boy's extravagance and irresponsibility both inexcusable and incurable, unless being forced to rely on his own efforts can teach him where his relatives have failed. Outlines his own efforts at instruction over a four-year period. Insists the youth should be put to work at once.

A. L. S. 8 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.4cm.

[HENRY R. DUPONT, no address], from CHARLES I. DUPONT and [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], "Louviers", [Del.], May 11, 1864.

Mr. duPont gladly sends \$1.00 to pay for a cricket racket, since he approves the sport and has not found his son extravagant. Tells of a fatal accident during repairs to "one of the lower [powder] mills.

Mrs. duPont adds that Charles [dupont, Jr.] cannot come as Henry wishes because workmen are busy on the "Rokeby" property he purchased from Mr. . . . Breck. Wishes she could see the cricket match. The new bridge [across the Brandywine at Rising Sun] is very convenient; "the old Boat and cable have had their day".

A. L. S. [signed by Charles I. duPont only]

3 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.4cm.

HON. [WILLIAM] CANNON, Governor of Delaware, [Dover], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, Brandywine [Wilmington], June 21, 1864.

Suggests that Delaware establish an agency in Washington for the relief of Delaware men and to direct supplies and comforts to them from relatives and friends. Other states are following this plan which has the full approval of the Surgeon General. Recommends the Misses Shaw of Wilmington to manage this agency as they have been engaged in ministering to the sick and wounded soldiers.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 16.5cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [MRS.] HELEN ROGERS, Rahway, [N. J.], July 27, [18]64.

Hopes all members of the duPont family escaped injury in a recent serious explosion. Her husband has been very ill of a "congestion of the brain" similar to apoplexy, but is showing improvement after treatment by bleeding. The "fabulous" expense at Long Branch and Cape May, \$30.00 per week, will keep her family at home all summer. "This is terrible for professional people".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13.4cm. x 21.7cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [MRS.] M[ARY] HILLYARD, [Dover, c. July 27, 1864].

Read an account in the paper of an explosion at the [duPont] powder works. Was glad to leave her Baltimore home, a block from Gen. [Henry H.] Lockwood's headquarters, after the fright of a [Confederate] raid on the city. Dr. [Martin] Bates "shows all the interest of a devoted father" in Marty [Martin B. Hillyard, her son], whom he has sent to find himself a draft substitute. The doctor is willing to pay even "a thousand dollars rather than run any risque"; she appreciates his solicitude. Mentions photographs of Amy and Harry [duPont] and Molly [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. CHARLES [I.] DUPONT, Brandywine, Wilmington, from MRS. ROSE MORRIS, Crossmaglen, [Ireland], March 16, 1865.

Henry R. duPont's former nurse (then Rosa Graham), inquires how the family is "getting on since that dreadful war has broke out amongst you". Asks individually for each of the duPonts, with reminiscences of sixteen years earlier concerning them. Is still grateful for the kindness then shown her. Tells of her husband, their children and their prosperous business.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 11.5cm. x 18.4cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, June 24, 1865.

Pays tribute to [Rear] Admiral [Samuel Francis] duPont's outstanding personal qualities. Speaks of the affection his family felt for him and the shock his sudden death must have caused.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.8cm. x 20cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from D[ANIEL] M. BATES, *Appledore*, off Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 3, 1865.

Offers his sympathy to the family of [Rear] Admiral [S. F.] duPont whose qualities as a man and a public servant he so admired, and whose naval policies during the war have been so completely vindicated.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13cm. x 20cm.

MRS. ELIZABETH E. RIDGELY, [no address], from CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, Aug. 15, 1865.

Strongly advises [the widow of Charles George Ridgely] against the sale of her son Charles' [Ridgely] reversionary interest in "Fox Hall". Estimates the present worth of half of his late father's share at only \$125.00; while "at the death of Mrs. S. A. Ridgely [it] will be worth \$357.14/100".

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.5cm.

C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Esq., [Wilmington], from W. WALKER, Dover, Sept. 21, 1865.

Presents their joint account with John Woodall for "the Needham farm". Suggests alternate plans for convenient payment.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from CHARLES [I. DUPONT], Dover, [c. Nov.] 18, 1865.

The "Fox Hall" property is in satisfactory condition. His visit has been pleasant. Expects to be home on the "2:25 train".

A. N. S. 1 p. 13cm. x 20.7cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Nov. 28, [c. 1865].

Expresses her deep affection for the little girl whom she has always found so kind and good-tempered, "as my darling Willy [Johnson] was". Hopes she can come for Christmas. Sends "the carte de visite for your book".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 13cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Dec. 8, 1865.

Hopes Mr. duPont will be elected President of the Delaware Railroad. Wants "one of those story books such as Harry [R. duPont] had when a child" for "Heitty" [his daughter, Harriett Ridgely]. Encloses a check for Harry Ridgely's account.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.3cm.

[CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from ELLA [MISS GABRIELLE SHUBRICK, no address, Jan. 1,] 1866.

Sends New Year's greetings to her uncle. The day has always been one of family celebration, but is quiet this year. Has placed laurel wreaths over the pictures of [Admiral S. F. duPont], Alexis [duPont] and Dr. . . . Smith. Mentions a fair for the benefit of the Catholic Church, and the appearance on Christmas of "Kris Kringle". Speaks of her mother and of the duPont family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13.4cm. x 20.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from NED [EDWARD RIDGELY], Dover, Feb. 6, [18]66.

Announces the birth of a daughter, who will probably be named Sarah Banning [Ridgely]. Speaks of his older children "Heitty" [Harriet] and "Neddy" [Edward Ridgely, Jr.]. [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely] is in Washington on [Farmers] Bank business. Hopes [nephew] Henry Ridgely can sail "at the time appointed".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

[CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from J. I. ALLEN, Dover, July 2, 1866.

The Treasurer of the Delaware Railroad Company sends a memorandum of the July dividends payable to Mr. duPont and members of his family, and asks a receipt.

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.5cm. x 20.3cm.

ANN, MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, [near Wilmington], from [MRS.] MARGARET A. COMEGYS, Dover, July 6, 1866.

Expresses the pleasure she and her family feel in the marriage of Amy [duPont] to Mr. [Eugene] duPont.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.6cm.

[CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from GEO[RGE] P. FISHER, Washington, D. C., Aug. 10, 1866.

Has seen the Commissioner of Pensions regarding Mrs. . . . Blizzard's application and succeeded in having her papers marked "special". Hopes she will not have to wait the customary nine months or a year that the heavy business of the office usually imposes before pensions can be granted.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 14cm. x 23.4cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [MRS.] MARY A. RAYMOND, Rockland, Brandywine, [Del.], Aug. 13, 1866.

Refers to her own and her mother's illness, and to the death of her daughter a year previous. Hopes Mr. duPont has recovered, for "he has . . . at his side . . . an all healing physician that is you which is next to Christ you cure whithout money whithout Price whithout Pain . . .".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.8cm. x 18.7cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [near Wilmington], from JAMES GILBORNE LYONS, West Haverford, Penna., Oct. 27, 1866.

Fully approves the reasons for transferring her son Henry [R. duPont] to Lawrenceville [Academy] and wishes the lad every success.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.3cm.

CHA[RLE]S I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from REV. S. M. HAMMILL, Classical and Commercial High School, Lawrenceville, N. J., Dec. 19, 1866.

[Henry R. duPont] has just left for the winter vacation. His health, conduct and scholarship have been good. The new term opens January 2. A formal report will be mailed soon.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.7cm. x 20.5cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from MARIE . . ., New York, Jan. 28 [post 1866].

Thanks "dearest cousin Anne" for a wedding gift, and acknowledges others from Amy [duPont] and Mollie [Ridgely]. Mentions Ferd

A. L. S. 2 pp. 13cm. x 20.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [MRS.] M[ARY] HILLYARD, [Dover], Aug. 3, 1868.

Names Dover friends and relatives among whom she is visiting. Hopes "poor Dr. [Martin] Bates" recovers from heat prostration, for "although [he is] in his 83d year he is doing

so much good that he would be a very great loss". Remarks that "Mart and Maggie" [her son Martin B. Hillyard and his wife Margaret, neé Jump] are so much in love "it is a comfort to me", but she is worried about the health of both.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from VIRGINIA, MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], "Eden Hill", [near Dover], Sept 8, [c. 1868].

Alludes to a recent pleasant visit with the duPonts, to a compliment in Ann's last letter, and to various members of the family. Offers peaches for canning if Ann has none.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from ANN R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], Sept. 26, 1868.

Thinks "your Ma's" [Mrs. Alexander Johnson, neé Elizabeth Dorsey] photograph "very sweet", and is delighted that Annie loves her. Hopes the Johnsons will visit her, for Mr. duPont's "health is so precarious that we never leave home unless compelled to do so". Regretted leaving her niece "sitting so lonely like a little woman in the cars" at the end of her recent visit. Mentions Nick [Johnson], Aunt Mary Hillyard, "Old Aunt Susan", "little Mamie Davis" and Annie [duPont] who "grows sweeter every day". Admonishes Annie [Johnson] to clean her teeth daily.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 18.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from SUE E. ABERCROMBIE, 64 N. 34th St., Phila[delphia], post 1868.

Thanks Mrs. duPont and her family for a very pleasant visit.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. CHARLES [I.] DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], from E. LATIMER, [Wilmington, ante January, 1869].

Invites Mr. and Mrs. duPont and Mary [duPont] to tea.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MR. and MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from MR. BARCLAY, [n. p., ante January 1869].

Formally accepts an invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. duPont.

N. U. 1 p. 10.3cm. x 13cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from LIZZIE [MRS. EDWARD] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 31, 1869.

The entire Ridgely family grieves over Mr. [Charles I.] duPont's death. Regrets her own inability to accompany her husband to Wilmington to offer her sympathy to the family of one who was so loved and respected. Has been "very well" [since the birth of her twelve-day-old son, Henry Ridgely]. Mentions "Ma" [Mrs. Sally Ann Ridgely], her own older children, Amy and Harry [duPont] and Mollie [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.4cm. x 18cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from SOPHIE [MRS. S. F. DUPONT, near Wilmington, post Jan. 31, 1869].

Returns a letter written by her husband [the late Admiral S. F. duPont] to his brother Charles [duPont] just before he left for [the engagement at] Port Royal. Remarks that it is "so characteristic of the tender affection that bound together the two brothers, who we trust are now reunited in Heaven". She misses Charles constantly and shares his wife's grief. Is glad Amy and Eugene [duPont] are planning to stay with her. Mentions Mary and Harry [duPont].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 11.9cm. x 19.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from MARY L. HARRINGTON, Wilmington, Feb. 5, 1869.

Mourns [Charles I.] duPont's death and extends sympathy to his widow. Mentions her own family, especially Lydia

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, from SAM- [UE]L M. HARRINGTON, Wilmington, Feb. 8, 1869.

"Allow me to add a word of sympathy to the many your friends have spoken during this time of your deep affliction". Mr. duPont's death will be a loss to the public as well as to his family and friends. Writes appreciatively of his character, his great ability and his kindness.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MRS.] HELEN ROGERS, Rahway, [N. J.], March 31, [18]69.

Sympathizes with her cousin's sorrow, for she herself has known similar bereavement. Offers religious consolation and likewise reminds Mrs. duPont that many stricken with paralysis have not died easily, as Mr. duPont did. Invites her to visit Rahway. Mentions her own daughters.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 18.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington], from H[ENRY] R. DUPONT, Ft. Wm. Henry Hotel, Lake George, [N. Y., post 1869].

Enjoyed his stay at Sharon. Thinks Lake George "far finer than any I saw in Scotland". Intends to spend a few days at Bolton, on the lake, instead of going to Canada. "I understand that there is no transportation for the peaches. Too bad!"

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.4cm. x 20.3cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Dover], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, March 25, c. 1870].

Is delighted that Annie and Ruthanna [Ridgely] are to be confirmed. Is certain "Aunt Virginia [Ridgely] would be perfectly satisfied . . . [for she] is as pure and free from bigotry as anyone I know". Invites her niece to visit her soon. Tells of a lovely gift of flowers from Mrs. Francis N. Buck. Her new divan is "made up with olive plush and the stripe you worked. It is very handsome". Eugene [duPont] is entertaining thirty officers in town on business from Fortress Monroe. Mentions Sophie Chandler.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[HENRY R. DUPONT, . . ., England], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], June 29, 1872.

Misses him since his departure. Gives him much news of family and friends, mentioning . . . Grubb, Amy [duPont], Annie [duPont, daughter of Amy and Eugene], Gabri[elle] Swift, Ruthanna and Lydia [Harrington], Ann Bar, and "Irene's baby". His friends are "joking about your party having a young lady in charge", but suppose the "single gentlemen" will be too seasick to care.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.6cm.

HENRY R. DUPONT, c/o J. S. Morgan & Co., London, England, from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], July 11, 1872.

Is becoming anxious to hear of his safe arrival. Thinks she missed the announcement of the *China's* docking. Tells of Amy [duPont] and her son "Lexie" [Alexis duPont], the death of Charlie Breck's baby, a visit from Ruthanna [Harrington], and of the old "Aunt Susan" who accompanied her and revived memories of a duPont retainer of that name. Complains of the heat and "all the horrors of Mollie's [Ridgely] dressmaking". Harry [Ridgely] has bought land in California. Speculates on Edgar's . . . engagement, mentioning Bessie Bradford, Annie Gerhard and Annie Comegys. Refers to her own business affairs and household matters.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.6cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, April 22, 1874.

Discusses "Richard's [Harrington] affairs", mentioning Judges . . . Olin and [George P.] Fisher, Mr. . . . Riddle, and . . . Brinton as persons concerned in various ways in the investigation of a conspiracy case. Is convinced his son-in-law is innocent of intentional misconduct, although a blunder in procedure places him in an unpleasant situation. Thinks . . . Riddle hoped to "oust Fisher so as to get the office of District Attorney himself".

A. L. S. 5 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from H[ENRY] R. DUPONT, S. S. *Abyssinia*, June 24, [1874].

Is pleased with the ship and his fellow passengers, among whom are Geo[rge] W. Biddle of Philadelphia, his son, and . . . Higgins.

A. N. S. 1 p. 13cm. x 20.6cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from HENRY R. DUPONT, S. S. *Abyssinia*, "100 miles from Queenstown", July 3, 1874.

Describes a pleasant passage marred only by sharing with three others a hot, airless stateroom "about the same size as the linen closet at home". Many interesting people are aboard. Comments on George W. Biddle, "a son of Richard Bayard's", Dr. . . . Hayes, Rev. Philip Brooks, and the Merrick and Lafitte families. Outlines the plans of his companions "Vic . . . and . . . Higgins". Adds postscripts: "Don't forget to feed the Cats!" and "Don't forget about tax due July 1st".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from H[ENRY] R. DUPONT, Chester [England], July 5, 1874.

Landed at Liverpool yesterday and came immediately to Chester. Likes the ancient walled town "which carries you back hundreds of years", but its cathedral, though interesting, "does not compare with others . . . in England". Visited beautiful Eaton Hall where he wished his mother might see the fine kennels, and his sister Amy [duPont] the landscaping.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13.3cm. x 20.7cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from HENRY R. DUPONT, Brussels, [Belgium], July 19, 1874.

Describes Brussels as "a small Paris". Tells of its cathedral, churches, art galleries, parks and gardens, the appearance of its inhabitants, and an interesting religious procession. Comments on Rubens' paintings he saw at Antwerp and on the

esteem in which the artist is still held there. Ordered cantaloupe for lunch, learning too late they were imported and cost \$2.50 each. English is spoken at hotels but he finds no difficulty in using French. Met Mr. and Mrs. . . . Gibbons. . . . Higgins is still with their party.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13.3cm. x 20.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from HENRY R. DUPONT, Baden Baden, [Germany], July 23, 1874.

Went by boat from Cologne to Mayance, stopping over night at Coblenz. Below Coblenz the scenery "did not equal that on the Hudson". On the Rhine steamer he met two attractive American girl students returning to Heidelberg and with them explored the ruins of the castle in the ancient University town. Had moonlight for the end of the river trip. Was disappointed with Worms. Describes Baden Baden and surrounding country. Will regret leaving Germany for Switzerland. English is widely spoken in Germany and the residents are "neat, clean and very polite". Mentions the Gibbons family and Dan[iel] Bates.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13.4cm. x 20.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from H[ENRY] R. DUPONT, Paris, [France], Aug. 9, 1874.

Is enjoying his second visit to Paris, in company of "Vic . . . and . . . Higgins" as much as he did his first. Knows nothing at home that compares with the city. Will return via London and New York about September 4. Has laid in two years' supply of clothes in London where "they are so much cheaper", but is bringing little else because "they are very strict at Custom House in N. Y." Refers to the Biderman family's intention of moving, Aunt Sophie [Mrs. S. F. duPont], Harry Ridgely, and Richard Harrington.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.6cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 18, 1874.

Explains that Richard [Harrington] had unsuccessfully attempted to bring [Charles A.] Dana, editor of the *New York Sun* to trial for libel against Gov. [A. R.] Shephard of the District of Columbia. He had also treated Capitol reporters "with pointed disrespect" and framed for Judge [L. P.] Poland of Vermont, a bill "to gag or muzzle the public press. . . . he, a mere boy, undertook the herculean task, alone and unaided, of curbing the license of the American press". In revenge a charge of conspiracy to defame the character of Columbus Alexander "the active man in the investigation of the District before Congress" has been brought against Richard. Outlines the circumstances and gives his reasons for believing the young man innocent.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 31.5cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Dec. 25, c. 1874].

Sends Christmas greetings. Regrets their hurried leave-taking. Was pleased with her niece's essay read at "the Browning" [Society] and sorry that circumstances kept so many of the family from attending. Invites Mr. and Mrs. [Alexander] Johnson to stay with her when Annie graduates from Wesleyan College. Ruthanna [Harrington, neé Ridgely] and her baby visited enroute to Washington.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13.3cm. x 20.8cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Dover], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], June 23, [c. 1875].

Refers to her niece's recent visit. Admires Mrs. Henry Winter Davis, whose daughters are unspoiled by their years in Europe. Mentions Mrs. [Myers C.] Conwell, Mrs. . . . Draper, Mrs. . . . Wilson, Nancy and Mrs. . . . Kane, Mrs. . . . Rumford and Mrs. . . . Canby. Quotes a letter from Aunt Virginia [Ridgely] which refers affectionately to Annie. In refusing to accept a poorly dyed sash she warned the dyer that everyone would say "they can't do anything in Wilmington" if the ribbon was worn in its present condition.

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 11.5cm. x 17.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], May 7, [1876].

Annie's watch has been left at Bailey's for repair. Invites her to join the duPont family when they go to Philadelphia to the Centennial Exhibition. Supposes the crowd, on the opening day, will in itself be worth seeing but does not dare make one of them, as she has heard "there would be such a crowd and rabble . . . that it would be unsafe to go up". The city is "gay with flags", in "such a stir" as she never saw before, and "crowded with foreigners. It is worth while to go up to see the many sights". Alfred Lee seems to have "forgiven" Mollie [Ridgely]. Writes of Mollie's kitten, Annie's [duPont] delight with a doll, Amy's [duPont] improving health, and a visit Harry [duPont] is making to "the Brandywine".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, near Mauch Chunk, Penna.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], June 25, 1876.

Hopes the mountain air has saved her niece from a threatened illness. Inquires about her trip to the Centennial and suggests further visits. Is tired from "the horrors of dressmaking". Cousin Ruthanna's second son has been named Samuel Maxwell [Harrington]. Chats of casual family affairs.

A. L. [S. implied] 3 pp. 13.3cm. x 21cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Aug. 3, [1876].

Gleefully shares "a secret none of the family knows": She has stayed alone in her house, cooking for herself on her "little kerosene stove", from Saturday through Monday while her servants went to the Centennial. The stuffed animals, altars and wax figures there delighted the kitchen girls. Writes with acid amusement of Sunday's church service, where the Bishop [Alfred Lee] dropped the Bible. Is rushed with the accounting incident to shipping peaches. Prices are good now, \$4.50 per crate, with Hale's Early bringing \$1.75 a basket or \$3.50 a crate. Refers to Molly [Ridgely], Harry [duPont] and Miss . . . Boyd.

A. L. U. 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.8cm.

MRS. CHA[RLE]S I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from H[ENRY] R. D[U]P[ONT], Port Hawksbury, [N. S.], Aug. 10, 1876.

Is enroute home from Canada by way of Boston.

A. N. S. [postcard] 1 pp. 7.8cm. x 12cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from H[ENRY] R. DUPONT, [S. S.] *Worcester*, Aug. 14, [18]76.

Is returning from an extremely pleasant trip. A seal skin purchased in Halifax is to be delivered by Adams Express.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Sept.] 24, [1876].

Writes enthusiastically of "the Harrel pictures at the Academy", an incomparable exhibit of old masterpieces lent for the Centennial year. Harry [R. duPont] says "Paris by Moonlight, at the Coliseum" was "so good he could see the very house he boarded in". Seven of the duPont family have died this year. The body of Mrs. Alexis duPont, who died in England after a few days' illness, was brought home for burial. Tells of the funeral with its lovely flowers. Annie Comegys is to marry Rev. Mr. Gassner of Illinois. Describes Mollie's [Ridgely] blue wool serge with sleeves and flounces of silk. Mentions Carrie Johnston, Gabri[elle] Swift and the Swift children, her own grandchildren, the Johnson family, and others.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 13.3cm. x 20.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from ANN R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], Dec. 17, [1876].

Acknowledges a gift of "mats" for a bureau and a pretty match box. Cannot reconcile herself to the "death of dear little Vicky (Victorine Antoinette duPont, orphan daughter of Charles I. duPont, Jr.) from typhoid fever. Pities desolate Mary

[duPont]. Comments upon the number of deaths among the duPonts since last New Year: "The Centennial year has been a black one in the family". Is pleased with her newly completed library and delighted with the furnace, which "even in this cold weather", makes the entire house comfortable. Philadelphia's streets "fixed for the holidays", are both gay and quaint with their American and foreign shops displaying all sorts of interesting merchandise. Harriet Porter's beautiful wedding was shortly followed by the death of Samuel Breck, one of the ushers, from typhoid fever.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS] EMILY [MORRIS, Dover], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. 1877].

Tells of the search Horace Smith is making for descendants of William Moore of "Moore Hall". Asks her cousin's assistance, suggesting that Aunt [Mrs. William] Morris probably "left many interesting letters" which might prove useful. Mentions Anna Maria [Layton, nee Morris], William [Morris], Walter Morris and Mary . . .; also Mrs. . . . Ennals, the Goldsborough and Cadwalader families, and others.

A. Df. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12cm. x 19.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. April 1877].

Agrees that \$10.00-\$12.00 is too high a price for a muff to be stored all summer before it is used, though "seal muffs are frightfully expensive". Her own cost \$15.00 in Halifax, [Nova Scotia], and would have been \$30.00 in Philadelphia. Grieves over the sudden death of Irene Dimmick and tells of her funeral, recently held from Amy's [duPont] home. The flowers were especially beautiful. Refers to Irene's deceased mother, [Mrs. A. I. duPont] and sisters Fannie [Coleman] and Minnie [duPont?]. Aunt Sophie [duPont], Mrs. [Irving] Shubrick, Mary [duPont], Lina duPont and Ridgely Harrington are all ill. Concedes that [President Rutherford B.] Hayes is doing better than she expected. Mentions Lydia and Ruthanna Harrington.

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 15cm. x 15cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, from . . ., "CASTANEA", April 28, [c. 1877].

An [unidentified] niece of "Agnes (or Ann) Sykes", the first wife of Jacob Jones, reminisces about the Commodore's family, her own, and Mr. and Mrs. [Henry M.] Ridgely. Recalls Mrs. [Henry M.] Ridgely, a dear friend of her mother's, as "the most lovely and attractive woman who visited us", and Henry M. Ridgely as having "waving curly hair with a bright joyous

face", handsomer than the profile portrait suggests. Knew Williamina Jones before an unhappy love affair induced her to enter a convent. Richard Jones also visited their home as a lad. Jacob Jones was on intimate terms with the Sykes family. Mentions Edward S. Jones, the Chew and Vining families, Richard Kemble, and Chancellor [Nicholas] Ridgely.

A. L. U. 8 pp. 11.5cm. x 17.5cm.

MRS. ANN R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from HORACE W. SMITH, Falls of Schuylkill, [Penna.], May 5, 1877.

Alludes to a book in preparation concerning his great grandfather Dr. [William] Smith. Wishes to consult Mrs. duPont's papers to replace Mrs. [Jacob] Jones properly in the Moore genealogy. Asks the names of younger descendants of Ann Moore [Ridgely] and the identity of Mrs. . . . Ennals. Mentions his own ancestors Richard Penn Smith and Rebecca Blodgett, children of Dr. Smith.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. ADA [sic.] R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Market St., Wilmington, from HORACE W. SMITH, Phila[delphia], May 8, 1877.

Portraits of "Vining and his wife" [John Vining the elder and Rachel (Ridgely), attributed to Hesselius] may be obtained from Mr. . . . King "at your own price". They need repair but "if they were properly lined, *you* could yourself do all the restoration needed".

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

MRS. ANN R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from EDW[ARD] S. JONES, Cecilton, [Md.], May 14, 1877.

Regrets that he cannot supply the first names either of the second Mrs. Jacob Jones or her father Mr. [Thomas William] Moore, but mentions her half-sister Mrs. Anne Sands, and other relatives Admiral Joshua Sands and Miss Harriett Sands, his own sister Williamina [Jones], brother Richard Ayscough Jones and nephew John M. Jones, a Catholic priest.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

MRS. A. R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, from HORACE W. SMITH, Falls of Schuylkill, [Penna.], May 16, [1877].

Purchased "the Vining pictures . . . for \$25." Describes their condition and arrangements for shipping them.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.4cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from "WILLIE" [MRS. WILLIAMINA E.] HENRY, Cambridge, . . ., May 21, 1877.

Traces her own ancestry to Dr. William Smith through his daughter Williamina Elizabeth (Goldsborough). Her mother was Mary Nixon of Dover, Delaware, daughter of Charles, an "uncle of Mr. Nicholas Van Dyke". Mentions her sisters Mrs. . . . Steele and Mrs. . . . Harrison, her husband, "several of our children", her sister Sarah's five children, her deceased mother, and Dorcas Van Dyke, mother of Mary duPont.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. ANN R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from EDW[AR]D S. JONES, Cecilton, [Md.], May 24, 1877.

Encloses a letter of May 21 from Cousin Harriett [Sands] giving genealogical information.

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.7cm. x 20.5cm. [enclosure]

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from [MISS] HARRIET A. SANDS, Stratford, [Conn.?], May 21, [1877].

Is glad to supply what genealogical information she can. Her grandmother, née Ann Cuyler, married first Richard Ayscough, then Thomas William Moore, whose "family numbered 17", among them Tom Moore, "a very gay bird" who lived in New York, and Janet Forman Moore who married Jacob Jones. In childhood she heard stories of Mrs. Jones' tragic death during her husband's captivity. She herself is a daughter of Ann (Ayscough) Sands, a child of Ann Cuyler's first marriage.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 10.6cm. x 16cm. [Enclosed with letter above].

MRS. ANN R. RIDGELY [CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from HORACE W. SMITH, Falls of Schuylkill, [Penna.], June 4, 1877.

Is delighted to have the information from Miss [Harriet] Sands about Thomas William Moore, whom he identifies as the sixth child of William Moore of "Moore Hall". Asks further data about his descendants. Regrets that "the Vining pictures did not come up to your expectations".

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], June 14, 1877.

Insists that Annie stay at her house instead of at [Wesleyan] College during a coming visit despite her own absence in Scranton [Pennsylvania]. Is hurt that she comes so seldom. The oculist encourages Mollie [Ridgely]. The Earl of Wemyss and Sir

John Moore are the notable ancestors Mr. [Horace] Smith has traced; "he *don't stir up the scamps* but lets them rest in oblivion". Promises more family lore on their next visit for "Mollie and I have been enjoying Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader's letters to grandmother [Mrs. Ann (Moore) Ridgely]". Harry [duPont], now in Boston with Ferd Gilpin, sails soon for Europe.

A. L. [S. implied] 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHA[RLE]S I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from HENRY R. DUPONT, London, [England], Aug. 12, 1877.

Plans to sail for home on the *Algeria* August 18. Refers to recent serious strikes in the United States, which are being used in France as a campaign argument against the liberal party, champion of a Republic. Thinks the English form of government is best, with its strictly limited monarchy, representation of all elements of the population, outstanding civil service, and greater security of "rights of person and property than an American" [has]. But will not come home "(as many do) abusing everything American". Is homesick for corn, eggplants, ochre, lima beans, and can even bear the idea of "fried tomatoes continually for breakfast". Describes a delightful walk down the Thames Embankment and an inspiring moment on Westminster Bridge. Mentions Molly [Ridgely], Irene [duPont], Col. and Miss . . . Rich, Frank Buck, "the children's donkey" and photographs of himself taken in Paris.

A. L. S. 8 pp. 13cm. x 20.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from HENRY R. DUPONT, London, [England], Aug. 16, 1877.

Sails Saturday and hopes to be home by September first. Spent a day "at the Riches . . . in a lovely country place" near London.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.9cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Dover], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Dec. 2, 1877.

Is pleased to hear of her niece's pleasant visit in Dover after such a quiet time in Wilmington. Was amused at Annie's [duPont] grown-up manner as she shopped in Wilmington for articles needed for the family Christmas tree. The town is already decorated for the holidays. Alludes to Mollie's [Ridgely] "tender words at the door" with Alfred [Lee?], welcome calls from Mr. and Mrs. . . . Gilpin and Emma . . . , and activities of the duPont family.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from MISS] AMY [DUPONT, n. p., Feb. 21, c. 1878].

A very small child sends greetings to "dear Dranma". [Note apparently dictated to an older child.]

N. S. 1 p. 15cm. x 15cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. [DUPONT, Wilmington], July 14, 1878.

Grieves that she cannot accompany the duPonts to Europe, but hopes that Mr. [Alexander] Johnson can be persuaded to take her himself soon. Mollie [Ridgely] will stay with Amy, Mary and Aunt Sophie [duPont] this summer. Worries about Nick's and Annie's [Johnson] vision. Reports the discovery of more data about "the beautiful Miss [Mary] Vining". Speaks of the Hunter and Graham trials, Miss . . . Boyd, the Bishop [Alfred Lee], May duPont], and others.

A. L. U. 4 pp. 12cm. x 19.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Atlantic Ocean, Steamer *Bethnia*, July 28, Aug. 2, 1878.

She and Harry [duPont] are enjoying a smooth passage, with good accommodations and interesting companions. Relates anecdotes of a "raw Kentuckian", naive and crude but intelligent, who has made a fortune in tobacco and is starting out to "see the world". Describes other passengers, the lovely phosphorescent track of the ship at night, the church service on Sunday morning, and the teasing she endures because she has not yet gotten up to see the sunrise. Sighted the Irish coast August 2.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. ANN R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, c/o Lombard, Odier & Co., Geneva [Switzerland], from H[ENRY] RIDGELY and V[IRGINIA] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 15, 1878.

Henry is glad his sister and nephew arrived safely. No illnesses, marriages, deaths or scandals have occurred lately among Dover friends. Dover is "particularly lively with Bay parties in which old and young join". The corn crop is excellent but others are poor. The duPonts' peaches have been shipped. The Democrats have nominated John W. Hall of Frederica for Governor and Edward L. Maclin for Congress; the Republicans have no ticket. Mary Ann [Mrs. Eugene Ridgely] is not yet "reconciled to leaving Linden".

V[irginia] tells of "Camp Meetings, Beach Parties, sailing parties, pic-nics, anything for a variety". Dover has almost no peaches "for home consumption". Mentions Ruthy [Ruthanna] and Richard [Harrington].

A. L. S. 8 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.3cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, London, England, ante Aug. 16, 1878].

Describes the quaint old city of Chester, [England] with its Roman wall, ancient cathedral and medieval buildings. There "our ancestor Sir John Moore" must have watched with Charles I the defeat of the last loyalist army. Went by rail from Chester to London, finding England's countryside and its railway cars of great interest on the way. Has wandered for hours in Westminster Abbey, reliving the history its statutes and tablets commemorate. Attended a service there. Adds on August 16 that she is in Brussels, a beautiful and interesting city with no rival but Paris. Goes next to Antwerp and Cologne. Harry's [duPont] French proves very useful, but English is widely understood. Visited Admiral . . . Blake's widow, a former acquaintance, near London.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 12.8cm. x 19.8cm.

MRS. ANN [CHARLES I.] DU[PONT], c/o S. Morgan & Co., London, Angleterre, from [MRS. [E[LIZABETH] GILLILAN, Etretot, Normandy, Aug. 16, [18]78].

Hopes Ann will visit at her English home, "The Grange", Cheltenham, while in Europe. Will return soon from her own vacation in France. Mentions her [daughter] Julia . . ., [her son] Willy's [Gillilan] two small daughters, and the marriage of her daughter Clara [Gillilan].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 10cm. x 15.9cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. October, 1878].

Finds it hard to write since her return from Europe, for lack of both subject and time. Is determined to take Annie if she goes again but considers life and health too uncertain at her age for definite plans two years ahead. Is eager to tell the Johnsons about her trip. "We had a lovely opera here on Monday, . . . *Marie Rose*, Carleton & Karl". Refers to Mollie [Ridgely], Harry [duPont], Col. [Henry B.] Judd, Bishop [Alfred Lee], Mrs. [Clemma] McIlvaine and Charles duPont. Thinks . . . Dr. Thompson a more satisfactory oculist than Dr. . . . McKay.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 13.5cm. x 21cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Jan. 5, 1879.

Has a fragile gift, a souvenir from her trip [to Europe], for her niece; will take it to Dover herself. Received "a very handsome cabinet for my parlor" at New Years, a water-color copy of the Sistine Madonna, and "two small porcelain pictures, . . . fine paintings". Alludes to the death of little Greta, daughter

of Victor [duPont]. Deplores the small enrollment at "the Wesleyan" [Female College] and "poor Miss . . . Boyd's" few music students. Inquires about Nick [Johnson].

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Feb. 9, 1879.

Mollie's [Ridgely] illness ties her so closely to home she is reluctantly mailing "these fragile things The carving is so very fine that even in Geneva they were expensive. . . . the porcelain rose is for the hair, a souvenir of the Paris exposition". Fears Wilmington will be too quiet for Annie after her "charming time at Snow Hill, [Maryland]". Refers to the "Inauguration Ball" at Dover, the criminal . . . Graham, Aunt Virginia's [Ridgely] precarious health and her worry over Nick's [Johnson] vision. Likes Mollie's young Egyptian visitor, "fascinatingly ugly", intelligent and agreeable, but thinks the handsome Bishop's assistant, who also calls, too great "an admirer of himself". Has volume I of "Mr. [Horace] Smith's book".

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], April [c. 1879].

Is recovering from a brief but severe illness. Unwillingly agrees to let Annie make her a chair cover if she will avoid eye-strain. "I believe you are as obstinate as two duPonts (. . . the most obstinate race in the world) and such people always carry their point". Asks Mr. [Alexander] Johnson's opinion of sugar beets.

A. L. [S. implied] 3 pp. 11.4cm. x 17.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. D[U]P[ONT, Wilmington, spring c. 1879].

Is recovering slowly. Aunt Sophie [duPont] is very frail. Suggests that Annie carry the blue beaded bag that belonged to her grandmother, for they are very fashionable again. The peach crop promises to be so large only the railroads will profit from it. Had a few sugar beets planted. Comments upon how "the Wesleyan [Female College] has gone down". Makes plans for a visit to Farmington. Tells of a children's party to which she took Amy [duPont, her granddaughter].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, June 1, 1879.

Regrets that Annie is not coming for the Wesleyan [College] commencement. Makes plans for a visit to Farmington, comments on the poor prospects now apparent for peaches, and tells of the redecorating under way in her house. Mr. [Horace] Smith

has given her Volume I of his book [concerning the Moore family] and a copy of a miniature of Williamina Smith done by Major [John] Andre, "a very curious looking picture" he will use as an illustration in his second volume. St. Andrew's [Church, Wilmington] is much improved by painting and frescoing.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 13.7cm. x 20.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington], from H[ENRY] R. DUPONT, Bar Harbor, Maine, Aug. 10, [1879].

Describes Mt. Desert, with which he is much pleased. Gives his itinerary, with several mailing addresses. Mentions . . . Grubb, Miss . . . Lamar, and Meta Kemble.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 17.7cm.

H[ENRY] R. DUPONT, Wilmington, from FRANCIS N. BUCK, Wilmington, Aug. 15, 1879.

Has obtained the pedigree of the dog "Clytie". Enjoyed his visit to Narragansett. Mentions . . . Grubb.

On same document, a letter of Dan[ie]l Elmer, [Manitou Park, Colorado], from R. Abbott, Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1879, gives "the pedigree of the Skye" terrier and refers to a son of Dr. . . . Hewson, now on his way to Leadville, Colorado as a mining engineer. Dan[iel Elmer] forwards it to Frank [Francis Buck, Wilmington], July 31, 1879 with a note telling of a satisfactory investment and of his delightful vacation.

A. L. S. 1 p.+3 12.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Mulford's Mountain Summer House, Tannersville, N. Y., from H[ENRY] R. DUPONT, Mt. Desert, [Maine], Aug. 15, [18]79.

Has "become perfectly infatuated with this lovely place, riding, sailing and walking" and likes the people there. Enjoyed an entertainment by the Indians and a visit to their encampment. Had his fortune told. Will probably return by way of the White Mountains and Saratoga [New York]. Mentions Miss . . . Lamar, the Stetsons, and Charlie Rumford.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 17.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from H[ENRY] R. DUPONT, Clarendon Hotel, Saratoga Springs, N. Y., Aug. 22, 1879.

Describes a trip from Mt. Desert along the Maine coast to Portland, across the White Mountains to Burlington, Vermont, and down Lakes Champlain and George by steamer. Thinks, except for Mt. Blanc, "Lake George is finer than Lake Geneva".

At Saratoga "everything . . . is fashionable in the extreme, the contrast to Mt. Desert, and not half as nice". The town reminds him of Baden Baden, [Germany].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 14.8cm. x 22.8cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Dover], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Sept. 22, 1879.

Supposes she is now "at the famous Dover Fair enjoying yourself extremely". Would be tempted to go herself if invited. Tells of the pleasant informal life at an inn in the Catskills she visited recently. Rates were \$8.00 per person in a double room or \$10.00 in a single. Expects Annie to spend the winter with her, and promises to read to Nick [Johnson] every evening if he will join them. Mentions Mollie [Ridgely], Ruthanna [Harrington], Annie [duPont] and Mrs. [M. C.] Conwell.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, autumn c. 1879].

Fears making the beautiful chair cover overtaxed Annie's eyes. Cousin Helen [Rogers] was amusingly enthusiastic in her reminiscences while visiting the old house in Dover but commented to Mrs. [Sally Ann] Ridgely about its tragic state of disrepair. Plans to visit New York soon.

A. L. [S. implied] 3 pp. 12cm. x 19.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, no address], from HENRY R. DUPONT, Wilmington, Nov. 14, 1879.

"A great church service is going on at St. Andrews [P. E. Church, Wilmington], . . . the town is full of parsons, and [Rev. John William] Kaye looks as excited as a mad dog". Refers to the death of Mrs. . . . Holland. Mentions . . . Comegys, Lydia Harrington, Cousin Helen [Rogers], Sister Mary [duPont], and his mother's flowers.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 14.8cm x 22.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [DR.] H[ENRY] RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 7, 1879.

Thinks Ann should continue the sketch of their father's life for [J. M.] McCarter and [B. F.] Jackson's proposed publication [*Historical And Biographical Encyclopaedia Of Delaware*]. They "would like you to spread it over several pages", for "they will have a very small book unless the biographies are written out as full as they will bear". The compilers "are almost indignant at the charge" that they are "getting up . . . an encyclopedia". Justice [Joseph P.] Comegys lent him an interesting sketch of Jasper Yates and Robert French.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.3cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. 1880].

Invites her niece, to come in time for a "large party" to be given by Col. [Henry S.] McComb in honor of "Miss Vanderbilt, the daughter of William (the railroad King)", Harry and Mollie [Ridgely] will attend. Supposes it will be "a grand affair".

A. L. [S. implied] 2 pp. 13cm. x 20.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from GREGORY B. KEEN, 3227 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Jan. 22, 1880.

Thanks Mrs. duPont for the information she has supplied about the elder Nicholas Ridgely's family. Is especially interested in "the copy of Patrick Martin's letter concerning his child", and in the names of Nicholas Ridgely's children [by Ann (French) Gordon Ridgely] who died in infancy. Expects his sketch to be published soon.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.5cm. x 17cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from GREGORY B. KEEN, 3227 Chestnut St., Philad[elphi]a, Jan. 24, 1880.

Wishes to verify the fact of Nicholas Ridgely's arrival in Delaware "as early as 1732", since Maryland records show him as Sheriff of Baltimore County in 1738. Inquires about his children by his third marriage, his exact birthdate, and where he lived in Delaware.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 10cm. x 13.3cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from GREGORY B. KEEN, 3227 Chestnut St., Philad[elphi]a, Jan. 27, 1880.

Acknowledges a mistake in identifying the Sheriff of Baltimore County as Nicholas Ridgely of Dover. Inquires about the Greenberrys. Publication of the next section of "Descendants of Joran Kyn" in *The Pennsylvania Magazine* will be delayed. The Wilmington Institute Library has a file of the numbers already in print.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 10cm. x 13.3cm.

GREGORY B. KEEN, [Philadelphia], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. February 1880].

Corrects a misstatement in a previous letter concerning the relationship between the Vining and Ridgely families, and cites family traditions concerning them.

A. Df. U. 1 p. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. June] 28, [c. 1880].

Is recovering from an illness due to exposure on a trip to Dover and nursing Amy [duPont] in a chilly room. Uncle Eugene [duPont] has been very sick. Mrs. . . . Briggs, a former neighbor "on the Brandywine", is still charming. Has had "a seamstress for plain sewing in the house for ten days who kept [Mollie Ridgely and] me busy cutting out and basting for her". Insists that her niece spend July, August and September in Wilmington to avoid malaria. Mentions a chair seat being made, and laudanum as a cold remedy.

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 12.3cm. x 20cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MRS.] LIZZIE STETSON, Montreal, [Canada], Aug. 20, [c. 1880].

Has had word of Uncle [Edward] Gillilan's death in England. Refers to her Aunt's [Elizabeth Gillilan] "happy married life of fifty years", and to her own mother's fondness for this brother-in-law. Extends an invitation for the fall.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 19.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from MRS.] HELEN [ROGERS], [no address], Aug. 22, [c. 1880].

Edward Gillilan died suddenly in England Aug. 12. Is deeply grieved both for her sister and herself.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.8cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from JAMES J. BARCLAY, Philadelphia, Oct. 26, 1880.

Explains the procedure for having "your little mute protegee" admitted [to the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf] and urges immediate action, as the child should have been entered younger to obtain full advantage from the training. Mentions members of the duPont family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.4cm. x 20.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from V[IRGINIA, MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], Jan. 27, 1881.

Was relieved to learn Annie [Johnson] is better. Has just had her first joint visit from all her grandchildren, Ridgely, Max[well] and Virginia [Harrington]. Hopes the cold weather will check diphtheria in Dover.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 13cm. x 20.8cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., [Wilmington], April 6, [c. 1881].

Wilmington has been quiet after a "gay" winter, with little activity during Lent but daily church services. Hopes Annie comes in time for Mrs. Willard Porter's tea. Mentions making "an outlined splasher", and having "a lace bunting and a Shepherd's plaid" made for Mollie [Ridgely] and "a pebble cloth and my dyed grenadine" for herself. Amy [duPont] is moving from "the dear old house [Louviers]". Grieves to see it "deserted". Gives news of Rev. Mr. . . . Murray, [Rev.] Mr. [John William] Kayes, Maggie Canby, Mr. [Myers C.] Conwell, Minnie [Conwell], Minnie Cowgill, Lottie Kemble and Hity [Harriet Ridgely]. Thinks her son Harry [duPont] "a confirmed old batchelor". Promises her niece a black silk dress in the fall unless the peach crop fails again. "What a pity about the Wesleyan [Female College] having come to grief".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. Aug.], 26, [c. 1881].

Sends a white wreath to replace the red feather she earlier chose for Annie's summer bonnet, for she has since learned "only persons of the Irish order" now use such feathers in summer. May go to Mulford's [Hotel?]. Mentions [Mrs.] Lizzie Stetson, Mrs. . . . Young, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Johnson, Nick and Bessie [Johnson], Mollie [Ridgely], Annie duPont and Aunt V[irginia Ridgely].

A. L. [S. implied] 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post Oct. 25, 1881].

Had a delightful visit with the Stetsons in New York, seeing the points of interest, taking pleasant drives, and enjoying their beautiful home. Tells of a drive in Central Park. The City's churches are "splendid" but inferior to European cathedrals. Mollie [Ridgely] accompanied her, and will soon go to Philadelphia. Invites the Johnsons to Wilmington. Recalls that "your own dear mother [Williamina Ridgely] never knew any mother but me . . ."

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post. Feb. 21, 1882].

Worries over Annie's recent poor health and wishes she had spent the winter in Wilmington, which has "never been so gay". Refers to the [Frank] Stetsons' visit, Mrs. . . . Young, Miss . . . Pennewill's wedding, her own birthday dinner, the elaborate

splasher she is embroidering, and the pleasing appearance of Mollie's [Ridgely] room "with its gold paper and nice walnut paint". Mrs. [Irvine] Shubrick's death saddened the duPont family, for she had been "gentle and loving" in the later years of her sorrow-filled life. Alludes to "the Abbott affair".

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES [I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, 145 Broadway, New York [N. Y.], May 6, 1882.

Thanks her for information concerning the Moore family, tells of the genealogy he is preparing, and refers to the following individuals: "Collector" Moore, Col. John Moore, [Capt.] and Mrs. Thomas William Moore, Thomas William Moore, Jr., "Col. and Rachel Campbell", "Mrs. Joshua (Ann) Sands", Ann Campbell, Bishop Channing Moore Williams, Bishop Richard Channing Moore, Williamina Moore Williams, Williamina J. E. Moore, and Abigail Franks, wife of Andrew Hamilton. An Evans-Barry-Jones line puzzles him, as does Mrs. duPont's reference to the Rowan and Wethered families. Has studied the English history of the Moore family carefully. Asks her authority for the belief that Williamina, wife of William Moore, was the daughter of David, 4th Earl of Weems. Has seen old papers stating that she was "the daughter of William, the 3rd son of James, the 4th Earl of Weems".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.5cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. summer 1882].

Coaxes her to come to "Mountain Home" at Wernersville, [Pennsylvania], situated on "a spur of the Alleghany" facing the lovely Lebanon Valley. Though so near home it compares well with the Catskills. Mollie [Ridgely] is being teased about her bangs. Alludes to "Mrs. Commodore [Daniel B.] Ridgely". Received "the Ridgely coat of arms of the first Nicholas Ridgely", which is "just like ours". Mentions Clemma McIlvaine, Mr. [C. A.] Rodney, Gabri[elle] and Maud Crofton, Bessie [Johnson], Aunt Virginia [Ridgely] and Aunt Sophie [duPont].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, 145 Broadway, New York, N. Y., July 25, 1882.

Discusses ancestors and descendants of the Moore family of "Moore Hall". Alludes to the work of Horace Smith, to correspondence with Edward Jones and Father [John M.] Jones, and to Williamina's [Ridgely] dairy. Mentions "The Collector", Williamina Moore Williams and her son Rev. Channing Moore

Williams, James Wemyss Moore [Sr.], the Erskine and Moore families, the children of Commodore Jacob Jones, and Bishop Richard Channing Moore of Virginia.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 26cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Aug. 3, [c. 1882].

Wants Annie to go with her to Eaglesmere or Wernersville [Pennsylvania] if she can travel. Mollie [Ridgely] and Mary [duPont] are at Glen Summit. Amy and Annie [duPont] have been to Cape May [New Jersey]. Miss . . . Eastman, formerly a teacher at Wesleyan [College] and now a missionary, is visiting in Wilmington.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, [New York, N. Y.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post Aug. 6, 1882].

Regrets her inability to add to his record of the Moore family, since the letters in her possession, written by Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader, give little genealogical information. Asks if he can confirm her father's story that "Collector" Moore's wife was descended from "Axtel who perished on the scaffold, & richly he deserved it". This "was almost the only piece of family history I ever learned from my father", who told it as a deflating supplement to an account of the Wemyss and Ridgely ancestry his sister [Mary (Ridgely) Morris] had given his little daughter, Williamina [Ridgely]. Thinks her correspondent "must be right" about Williamina [Mrs. William Moore] being the granddaughter of James, Earl of Wemyss, but has no proof of the relationship.

A. Df. U. 2 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.4cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Aug. 16, 1882.

Is relieved that Annie is better but alarmed at the symptoms. Thanks Nick [Johnson] for keeping the duPonts informed during the dangerous stage of her sickness. Hopes she is well enough to go to "Mountain Home" with the duPont party. Quotes rates. Mentions Aunt Lizzie and Sally [Ridgely], Minnie Conwell and Mr. . . . Abbott. [Letter found with return envelope of Drs. Wanrich and Deppen "Mountain Home", Wernersville, Penna.]

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 13cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], "Mountain Home" near Wernersville, Berks County, Penna., Aug. 26, 1882.

Worries about her niece's health. Describes the comfortable accommodations, beautiful walks and drives, and the sociability which she and Molly [Ridgely] are enjoying.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 13cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from HORACE W. SMITH, Falls of Schuylkill, [Penna.], Sept. 27, [18]82.

Wishes to use certain pictures to illustrate "a new work I intend to have out early in the year . . . *Two Centuries of Gossip*", comprising over 2700 items of the private papers of Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader, "letters from almost everybody of importance in Maryland, Delaware and Penna.", including "over 100 from . . . Mrs. Ann Ridgely". Wishes copies of Mrs. Cadwalader's letters now belonging to Mrs. duPont, and a copy of an engraving of "Mr. [Henry M.] Ridgely".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.4cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. October, 1882].

Explains the preparation and use of chlorate of potash as a cure for "the little white ulcers" in her niece's throat. Ridicules Dr. . . . L[ee]'s proposal to "touch [them] with caustic". Must go to "Fox Hall" soon on business. Mrs. [M. C.] Conwell and Minnie are deeply grieved over the death of Mr. [Myers C.] Conwell while abroad. Alludes to Mollie [Ridgely], Mary [duPont], Nick [Johnson], Dr. . . . Thomson and [tenant] . . . Phillips.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Oct. 5, [1882].

Has been occupied with housecleaning and social activities. Attended Mrs. Henry duPont's "Brandywine party" honoring George Breck and his bride. Mollie [Ridgely] "gives up to grief" over [Mr.] . . . Abbott's hopeless condition. Offers Annie [Johnson] the use of her Singer sewing machine. Plans a trip to New York. "Annie [duPont] writes glowing descriptions of her school, four meals a day, oysters almost every day for tea". Alludes to an election which has excited Richard Harrington. Mentions members of the duPont and Johnson families, Charlie Breck, "old Mr. Barclay" and the dressmaker Mrs Beggs who is just back from New York with "nice ideas for your dress".

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, Oct. 15, 1882.

Discusses Annie's recent "alarming illness". Doubts Dr. [James A.] Draper would have treated her as competently as the doctor she had. Refers to Mr. . . . Abbott's hopeless illness, a personal tragedy to Mollie [Ridgely]. Recommends "Mountain Home" to the Johnson's. Mrs. [M. C.] Conwell and Minnie [Conwell] also liked it. Annie and Lexie [Alexis I. duPont] are now happy at school. Mentions Bessie [Johnson], Clemma McIlvaine's second marriage, the . . . Draper's new home, a

promised New Year's gift, and the crowds that flocked to "Barnum's Show" beyond St. John's church near the toll gate on the old road to "Louviers". Still hears from [Horace] Smith. Is delighted with Nick's [Johnson] success but sorry it takes him from home.

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 13.7cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from H[ORACE] W. S[MITH], Falls of Schuylkill, [Penna.], Nov. 15, [18]82.

Refers to certain Ridgely letters he has borrowed. Is having an artist copy the picture of Mrs. [David] Erskine. Wishes "the Vining matter" sent. Has "a copy of a miniature of her" [Mary Vining].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15cm. x 23.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from [MRS.] EMILY E. BANNING, Wilmington, December, 1882.

Sends extracts from her mother's letters which mention Miss [Mary] Vining. One is mainly an account of the early Quaker Mary Dwyer, ancestor of the Philadelphia Quaker Fishers; the other, a child's recollection of John Dickinson and his daughter Sally. Also includes verses by W. Henry Vining, 1818.

A. L. S. 9 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES [I.] DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from EMILY E. [MRS. H. G.] BANNING, "The Oaks", [Wilmington], Dec. 6, 1882.

Forwards a letter she received from C. A. Rodney telling the family tradition in connection with a letter and verses, copies of which he encloses. They are believed to show Caesar Rodney the Signer was a rejected suitor of Mary Vining [later Mrs. Charles Inglis] in 1764. C. A. Rodney inquires about samples of Miss Vining's writing.

A. L. S. 1 pp.+3 12.5cm. x 18.5cm. [2 enclosures].

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from H[ORACE] W. S[MITH], Falls of Schuylkill, [Penna.], Dec. 20, 1882.

The first part [of his biography of Rev. William Smith] will be "ready next month". Encloses a proof of the portrait of Fanny C[adwalader], with which the artists had considerable difficulty. Presents "a letter to and from your father" which he discovered among the Smith papers in Maryland. Has a copy of a miniature of "Fanny Vining" by [Robert] Field. Refers to letters in Mrs. duPont's possession he plans to copy.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.4cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from H[ORACE] W. S[MITH], 524 Walnut St., Phila[delphia], Dec. 30, [18]82.

Is "about to put the Vining matter in the hands of the printer . . . as a series of extracts, but will use no names if you request" [it]. Refers to "your Vining pictures" and a very successful portrait of Mrs. [David] Erskine. Wants the early letters of Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader to Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21.4cm. x 23.6cm.

MRS. ANN R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, 245 Broadway, New York, Jan. 8, 1883.

Summarizes his "tolerable acc't of James Weems Moore's descendants". Horace Smith is wrong in stating that Collector Moore and James Moore of Carolina were brothers. Asks detailed genealogical data about recent generations of the Ridgely family. Alludes to the Wemyss family and the ancestry of Rebecca Axtell (Moore).

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21.4cm. x 27.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], March 18, 1883.

A visit with Amy [duPont], followed by another to Dover, both in snowy weather, made an already bad cold into a severe illness. Saw all her old friends, nevertheless, and was pleasantly entertained. Met Harry and Nick [Johnson]. Refers to her brothers and their families, her stepmoth [Mrs. S. A. Ridgely] and Annie Gassner. Annie's [Johnson] handiwork equals Aunt Virginia's [Ridgely]. Mentions [Horace] "Smith's Magazine".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.4cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], June 4, [1883].

Begs her niece to make a long visit. Fears "poor Ned" [Edward Ridgely, Jr.], bedfast from rheumatism with heart complications, cannot recover. His family seems unaware of "his hopeless condition". Aunt Virginia [Ridgely] is convalescent from pneumonia. May go with her to Atlantic City [New Jersey], but hears it is cold there. Speaks of [Mrs. Edward Ridgely], "Hity" [Harriet Ridgely], Annie Gassner, Albert Cowgill, Ruthanna [Harrington], Mrs. [M. C.] Conwell and her own family.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from WATSON R. SPERRY, 1221 Market St., [Wilmington], Sept. 21, [c. 1883].

Thanks her for a gift of fruit and for kindness during an illness from which he is recovering.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

MRS. ANN [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from H[ORACE] W. S[MITH], "Convention", [no address], Oct. 12, 1883.

An illness has interrupted his writing. Offers a portrait of Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett to Mrs. Eugene duPont on approval. "I paid Mr. [Thomas] Sully \$250 to paint it". Plans to "print three numbers of the magazine next month. The Vining article will then appear".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, Oct. 21, 1883.

Describes the trials of housecleaning. Hopes Annie can meet Cousin Helen [Rogers], Mattie Ruff, and Lizzie and Frank Stetson when they visit next week. Comments on Nellie McComb's approaching marriage to Mr. [Francis B.] Bangs with an allusion to "the Vanderbilts".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.4cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. November 1883].

Was bitterly disappointed that Annie could not meet the Stetsons. Tells of Nellie McComb's "very handsome" wedding, the decorations, the gifts and a few of the guests. Enjoyed a day in Dover with Cousin Helen [Rogers]. Dined at the Richardson House. Seal skin plush for a coat will be \$6.00 a yard after New Years instead of the present \$12.00. Has no recent news of "poor Ned [Ridgely]" who was at Avon with "Hity" [Harriet Ridgely] when she last heard. Inquires for the Johnson family.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT [and MISS] MOLLY [RIDGELY], 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from [MISS ANNE DUPONT], Farmington, [Conn.], Nov. 4, 1883.

Asks about Miss Nellie McComb's wedding, the Stetsons, and "Cousin Helen's [Rogers] visit". Heard "the Philharmonic Club from New York" at a recent school concert. Is determined to learn to play acceptably. Describes the decorations of her room.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 12.7cm. x 19.4cm.

MRS. A[NN] R., [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Market St., Wilmington, from ANNA M. [MRS. CALEB] LAYTON, Dover, Nov. 21, 1883.

Despite occasional rallies her sister [Miss Emily Morris] shows no real improvement. Lizzie [Mrs. Edward] Ridgely gives a favorable report of Edward [Ridgely, Jr.], and expects his eventual recovery.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13.3cm. x 20.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington], from V[IRGINIA, MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, ante Nov. 23, 1883].

Recounts several accidents and narrow escapes, one involving Sallie Hunn who "thought she had the right of way on that [railroad] track". Miss Emily Morris is no better. "New houses are going up in every direction and the town [of Dover] is spreading very much". The Eccles, Knights, Cowgills and Postles are among those building, enlarging, or planning to build. Admires "beautiful fancy work" but has no patience to complete it herself. Comments on the dwindling Friends Meeting at Camden. Mention [Eu]gene [Ridgely] and wife.

A. L. S. 8 pp. 12.3cm. x 17.5cm.

MRS. A[NN] [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from V[IRGINIA, MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], Dover, Nov. 23, 1883.

Enjoyed her recent trip to New York. The new furnace is satisfactory. "Lizzie [Mrs. Edward Ridgely] . . . gave a glowing account of the improvement in Ned, Jr.'s condition". Fears Miss Emily Morris will not recover. Three new houses in Dover have been built since Ann's last visit.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13cm. x 20.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from E. F. [MRS. EDWARD] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 6, 1883.

"Miss Emily Morris died this morning". Hopes she can attend the funeral and spend a few days with them.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Dec. 21, [c. 1883].

Refers to a gift of a "handsome" pin cushion, and to a box sent by express to the Johnsons. Asks her niece to come up for the parties to be given by Mrs. Willard Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Austin Harrington and Mrs. . . . Lee, and to meet "Willy" Porter. Mentions Harry [duPont] and Dr. Thompson, a Philadelphia oculist.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.4cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Dover], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. 1884].

Begs her to take cod liver oil for she is "thin and pale". Sends greetings to Richard and Ruthanna [Harrington], their children, Aunt Virginia [Ridgely] and Uncle Ned's [Edward Ridgely] family. Mollie [Ridgely] is improving under the care of a woman doctor. [Originally] encloses a sample of Strawbridge's "5-cts a yard" ribbon and an immortelle. The seal skin plush coat is "perfectly elegant".

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.4cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. January 1884].

Recounts the activities in Wilmington during "Willy's" [Williamina Porter] and "Hity's" [Harriet Ridgely] recent visits. Mentions Mrs. . . . Bates, Mrs. . . . Rumford, Col. [Henry R.] Judd's wife, and a group of young men who gave a dance at the Institute. Miss [Constance M., called "Maggie"] Douglass' wedding was "the handsomest" she ever saw, with the fine old house lighted with wax candles and decorated with flowers to receive the many distinguished guests. A special train was chartered for those from a distance and fifty carriages and sleighs met them at the New Castle station. Hears "poor Ned" [Edward Ridgely, Jr.] is worse. Wishes Ruthanna [Harrington] and Annie herself could have come for the parties. Refers to Misses Ridgeway and Abercrombie, of Philadelphia.

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from M. A. [MRS. JOSEPH] COMEGYS, Dover, Feb. 7, [18]84.

Expects Ann at her home to attend "quite a large party for Dover, to meet Maggie and Mr. [Frank] Buck". Recalls the parties of their childhood, when "simple muslin and a few bits of ribbon" made a proper gown, the guests assembled around sundown and were home by eleven, and "a tray with cut bread and butter, a cup of tea, a tongue sliced to a thinness unattainable now-a-days, a sponge cake, & at special houses a pound cake, & jumbles, whips! syllabubs! . . . lemonade, strawberries (in season) and the collation was elegantly complete". Next week their guests will appear about nine in the evening, "in velvets & lace & diamonds! . . . quite in proper costume for an assembly in New York or anywhere fashion congregates". Wonders if the change is "progress", though it is gratifying that the people of villages have the means to keep abreast of Paris fashion if they like. Mentions Mrs. S. F. duPont, [Amy duPont] and family, and Joseph and Harriett [Comegys].

A. L. S. 8 pp. 10cm. x 15.4cm.

MRS. ANN R. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from DR. H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 10, [1884].

Ned [Edward Ridgely, Jr.] died this morning a week after his twentieth birthday. Gives details of his final illness and Dr. [James H.] Wilson's diagnosis of his fatal heart ailment. A telegram was taken to the office in the morning, "but the young lady operator was out of town and was not to be at home until the evening".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MRS.] M[ARGARET] A. COMEGYS, Dover, March 28, 30, [18]84.

Regrets not seeing Ann during a recent short visit to Wilmington. Kate Wales is pleased with her brother's [Leonard Eugene Wales] new appointment. Comments on the low pay of Delaware judges. [Edward Ridgely's] family is deeply grieved by "Ned [Ridgely] Jr.'s" death. Mentions her niece Maggie [Buck], Harriett [Ridgely], Amy duPont and her children, Mrs. S. F. duPont, and "that handsome son of yours" [Henry R. duPont]. A note added March 30 refers to an explosion in which Lamotte duPont was killed. Wishes Ann's son-in-law [Eugene duPont] would retire from the dangerous [powder] business.

A. L. S. 9 pp. 11.6cm. x 17.2cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from V[IRGINIA, MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], Dover, April 13, [18]84.

Is pleased with an ornament made of "thistle flowers". Writes of gifts recently received, a photograph of Annie [Johnson], "little Bessie" [Johnson], Edward's [Ridgely] family, her own daughter Ruthie [Ruthanna Harrington], servant problems, her garden, and neighborhood gossip. "The Richardsons are so happy in getting clear of their elephant [Hotel Richardson?]" They plan to build a new home after their return from abroad. Alluding to someone said to be treated "like a dog" she remarks, "To thee and to ourselves that would mean foolish lavish[ing] of affection".

A. L. S. 8 pp. 11.4cm. x 17.7cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS.] CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, May 7, 1884.

Describes the handsome presents Annie [duPont] received for her seventeenth birthday. Was pleasantly surprised to like Willie Gillilan, the wealthy and fashionable English relative she met with [Mrs.] Lizzie Stetson. Is sorry her servant Sally

. . . must retire because of ill health. Refers to a statue of Admiral [S. F.] duPont now being completed. Mentions Aunt Virginia [Ridgely], Nellie Buck, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Buck, and the deaths of Ned [Edward Ridgely, Jr.] and Lammot [duPont].

A. L. U. 5 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, and MISS] MOLLIE [RIDGELY, Wilmington], from [MISS ANNE DUPONT], Farmington, Conn., May 18, [18]84.

Is looking forward eagerly to summer vacation. Attended a "fancy dress party" as "an old fashioned girl" in a dress copied from one her grandmother showed her. Mentions her teacher Miss . . . Porter, the family at home, and her riding lessons.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 13.6cm. x 20.9cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [MRS. EUGENE DUPONT, near Wilmington], May 21, 1884.

Thanks her mother for an embroidered scarf. Believes "you will have to give \$250.00 for the right kind to go in the kitchen to cook as that seems to be the town wages".

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 13.6cm. x 21cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post May 25, 1884].

"Poor Mrs. [Charles E.] Buck" is heartbroken over the death of her lovely young daughter, Nellie. Tells of the exquisite white flowers that filled and surrounded the coffin, making the funeral seem "brighter and more beautiful than a wedding". Has two new servants replacing Sallie . . . and Katie Pongee is "worn more than anything else" for best this summer. Mollie [Ridgely] suggests one with a vest of garnet velvet for Annie. A "black grenadine made . . . to wear over a rhadame silk" is another costume for a young woman, while Mrs. duPont herself has a satine, a bengaline and a "handsome Sarah silk trimmed with . . . velvet lace. Don't you think the old lady is coming out!" Will go either to New London, [Connecticut] or to Wernersville, [Pennsylvania]. Mentions Victor's [duPont] sudden illness and speaks of the Johnson family; the Middletons in Washington, [D. C.]; Annie Van Dyke; Annie Gassner's husband, aunt and children; and her own relatives, the Porters.

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 12.4cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from VIRGINIA [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], June 28, [18]84.

Describes a recent serious fire in Camden, [Delaware]. Stetson and Ellison's cannery and dwelling were destroyed and several other buildings damaged. Speaks of her grandchildren Max and Virginia [Harrington], their parents Ruthie and Rich-

ard [Harrington], Minnie Conwell, Ned's [Edward Ridgely] family, Mrs. [Joseph] Comegys and S[ally] A[nn] Ridgely. Tells about the crops and a new lily, "Egyptian, I think". Comments on the Clarke family and on the Eccles' new house. The latter plan to go to the Aldine after the season instead of to "their old city home . . . until Ned [Eccles?] is suited with a wife or other housekeeper".

A. L. E. 5 pp. 13cm. x 21cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MISS ANNE DUPONT], Farmington, [Conn.], Nov. 9, 1884.

Politics is now a forbidden subject at school because of the heated arguments that occurred between [James G.] Blaine and [Grover] Cleveland adherents. Describes two beautifully landscaped estates in the neighborhood, both abandoned after the business failures of the owners. Urges her grandmother to keep Mama [Mrs. Eugene duPont] to her diet.

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 13.5cm. x 21.5cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from H[ORACE] W. SMITH, Falls [of Schuylkill, Penna.], Nov. 6, 1884.

In his old age finds the sixty years devoted to "the advancement of the history of my family" has been spent in a "thankless job". Sends Mrs. duPont copies of certain prints and a group of Moore Family notes. Will accept any price she wishes to offer for them. Has sold the bulk of his material to "the government and a library in N[ew] Y[ork]". Alludes to "the Blodgett estate" as "another [Charles] Springer affair". Mentions "the little boys" in his care. Believes he is dying.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.3cm. x 17cm.

[MRS CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MISS ANNE DUPONT], Farmington, [Conn.], Nov. 23, [18]84.

Describes a tableau in which she took part at school, and tells about the making of her costume. Encloses a copy of the program. Comments on the death of Richard Harrington, her vacation plans, and the weather.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp.+1 13cm. x 21.5cm. [Enclosure]

[EDWARD RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Jan. 26, 1885.

Suggests a plan by which the funds of Harry R[idgely], long a resident of California, may be placed in trust for him under control of his sister Mollie [Ridgely], avoiding the legal obstacles Harry [duPont] has pointed out.

A. Df. U. 1 p. 12.4cm. x 16.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MISS ANNE DUPONT], Farmington, [Conn.], Feb. 15, 1885.

Was delighted with her grandmother's lovely valentine. Describes others she received from schoolmates and her little sister [Amy duPont]. Tells of a "spread" given by one of the girls as a twentieth-birthday celebration, with ice cream and chocolate eclairs sent out from Hartford by stage. Worries about the children at home, who have chicken-pox. Makes plans for her mother's [Mrs. Eugene duPont] approaching birthday, and regrets that she was not at home to visit "Grandmother [Mrs. Sally Ann] Ridgely" on her eightieth birthday. Looks forward to being at home next year. Mentions Lex [Alexis duPont] and Aunt Mollie [Ridgely].

A. L. [S. implied] 8 pp. 13.5cm. x 21.5cm.

MRS. A[NN] R., [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from "WILLY" [MISS WILLIAMINA PORTER], New London, Conn., April 6, [18]85.

Thanks "dear Auntie" for her thoughtfulness in sending [Easter] greetings to one "at such a distance".

A. L. S. 5 pp. 11cm. x 18cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington], from [MRS.] WILLIAMINA PORTER, New London, Conn., April 7, 1885.

Acknowledges "an exquisite selection of Easter paintings and sentiments" from her cousin. Wonders if Dover peaches she bought last season were from "Linden" [farm]. Refers to "Dear sister [Elizabeth] Gillilan" and to Mrs. duPont's recent serious illness.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 11cm. x 18cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. April] 22, [c. 1885].

Discusses plans for entertaining Ruthanna [Harrington]. Reminds Annie to take her "cod liver oil & iron" regularly. Describes a crowded, wretched trip to Philadelphia aboard the *Wilmington*, "a faint 'Black Hole of Calcutta' ". Fine quality cheese cloth is eight cents a yard. Is seeking "shalley" [challis] in "albatross white with a blue figure or blue . . . with bright figures".

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

ANNE [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MRS.] LIZZIE STETSON, 143 E. 37th St., [New York], Nov. 18, [c. 1885].

Invites her cousin to visit her after Thanksgiving to meet "Aunt Willie [Porter]. Uncle Porter and Willy . . . resisted my entreaties". Refers to her own mother [Mrs. Helen Rogers], Molly [Ridgely] and Henry [duPont]; and to "the old letters".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.5cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from CHA[RLE]S CADWALADER, 2400 So. 4th St., Phila[delphia], Feb. 17, [18]86.

Acknowledges data concerning "the D[octo]rs [Thomas and Phineas] Bond (and others of our kinspeople..", which will be useful to Dr. . . . Merton. Promises to care for the papers. Asks permission to copy certain documents for himself.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post Feb. 17, 1886].

Expects her daily. Tells of the round of visits and parties she and Mollie [Ridgely] have enjoyed recently despite the rain. Mentions Mrs. . . . Scudder, "Mrs. . . . McIlvaine and Alfred . . .", Mrs. Tirn Johnson, Helen Littell, Jimmy Stevens, Mrs. Banning, Mary Latimer, Mr. . . . Newbold, Mrs. . . . Wilson, Annie and "little Amy" [duPont], [Ignatius C.] Grubb and [Joseph P.] Comegys, Mrs. [Frank] Buck, Mrs. [Henry B.] Judd, Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher, Jr., and Mary Ridgely Howard's relative, Mr. [Leroy] White, who is interested in Ridgely family history. Dr. . . . Cadwalader still has "my manuscript". Refers to a "beautiful embroidered cover" for a stool, household matters and the "bazaar of the Provident Society".

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Feb.] 22, [c. 1886].

Regrets Annie's absence from her birthday dinner. The guests were her [own] children, son-in-law, grandchildren and "Pierre, Mary Lamott's son". The very formal dinner included raw oysters, soup, rock fish with egg sauce, turkey and five vegetables, champagne and sherry, cold ham and dressed celery, "ice cream Charlotte Rus[s]e", fruits and nuts. Describes the center piece and her presents. Illnesses of Victor and Aunt Sophie [duPont] kept Mary [duPont] away. Alludes to a concert at the Presbyterian Church. The peaches "are all killed". Minnie Conwell is engaged to Mr. [Horace T.] Carpenter of Chicago.

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Dover, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], March 19, 1886.

"I think Dover is just about the nicest place—it seems to me that I love every one in it, including the darkies, especially the old ones such as Cresa Parker, Isaac P. and Moses America . . ." Will have the sketch of her father's life in [J. M.] McCarter and [B. F.] Jackson's book entered as H. M. Ridgely if possible, though there is justification for Henry M. Ridgely. Discusses a letter included in the sketch. Writes of acquaintances Maggie Canby, Jacob . . ., and Mattie Johnson. Hopes Annie is learning chess which she herself enjoys.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, April 18, 1886.

Tells of a recent tea and luncheon, and of her own embarrassment at having to wear to the table a shabby bonnet she had expected to remove. Mentions Mrs. . . . Warner, Mrs. . . . Bates, Miss Anne Canby, Mrs. . . . Sidell, Mollie [Ridgely], Mr. and Mrs. Frank Buck, Amy's [duPont] family, and Mrs. . . . Warner's nephew, Anthony Higgins.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], May 23, [c. 1886].

Outlines her plans for a tea. Will serve lobster and coffee ice cream. Judge [Leonard E.] Wales' reception the following night will be "a very grand, elaborate affair". Mrs. . . . Rumford's reception was also "very handsome". Alludes to news concerning "Loulie" [Gerhard] and the Lee family. Made a parlor dust bag and shoe button bag as birthday gifts.

A. L. U. 4 pp. 12cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, ante June 3, 1886].

Expects her for Janie Black's tea. Mentions Mrs. . . . Draper, Kate Wales and her recent reception, Miss . . . Townsend, Mrs. Henry Lea and the members of her own household. "The New Castle hack . . . is always at the depot (as it is in Dover) . . .". Mollie [Ridgely] is busy preparing for "the Fair".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.3cm. x 20cm. [Enclosure]

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, June 13, 1886.

Wilmington has been gay with social activity. Refers to Mrs. . . . Black's tea, Mrs. . . . Hofficker's reception and dance, and numerous calls. Saw Sophie Waples, Clemma [McIlvaine], Dr. . . . Lea and Janey Black. Greatly enjoys her lessons in "Lustra painting". Mollie's [Ridgely] fair was very successful. "Poor Miss . . . Haven has her [wheel] chair" which enables her to sit at a window for the first time in twenty-five years. Mentions Loulie Gerhard.

A. L. U. 5 pp. 12cm. x 20cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post June 13, 1886].

Discusses household affairs, clothing, and Wilmington social activities. Congratulates Annie upon her success with some difficult dressmaking. The Hoffickers served lobster salad, cakes, fruit, strawberries, ice cream and water ices to the two hundred guests at their reception. Names the young girls who received at Mrs. . . . Bates' "chocolataire" where the refreshments included "chocolate in every form". Mollie [Ridgely] attended the "Musical given by the club" and went "to [Davis B.] Jones' for ice cream" afterward. Has learned the "Professor" was indicted for practicing [medicine] without a license, not for "the Activo". Asks if Nick [Johnson] still approves of it. Notes that "Wilmington has subsided, . . . I hope . . . till next fall".

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 12.3cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. October 1886].

Writes teasingly of Annie's recent visit. Mentions Mrs. . . . Murray, Miss . . . Knight, Annie Cazenove duPont, the [Henry B.] Judd's, Mrs. . . . Waddell, Dora [duPont] and the members of her own family. Got plush "for the border of my table cover". Plans to decorate the cover "in lustra painting".

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Jan. 5, [c. 1887].

Describes the New Year's gifts exchanged between her children and grandchildren, Mollie [Ridgely], Mary [duPont], and some of their cousins. Is planning to work a table cover and piano cover of broadcloth and plush. Mentions Aunt Sophie [duPont], Dr. . . . Lee, Dr. . . . Thomson, Mrs. [H. G.] Banning, Mrs. . . . Breck, "Loulie" Gerhard, and "Lex and Bessie", [Mr. and Mrs. Alexis Irénée duPont] with their children. Worries about Annie's [Johnson] health and Nick's [Johnson] vision.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 12.3cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Thomasville, Ga.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Jan.] 22, [1887].

The entire family is reassured by the postcards telling of Annie's trip South. Wilmington weather has been bitter since she left. Writes amusingly of her own chagrin at having dined very lightly before starting for the Lee's tea, only to be served "sandwiches, little sweet cakes, frozen coffee, chocolate and tea" instead of the usual substantial fare. Mentions her grandchildren, Mollie [Ridgely], Mrs. . . . Draper, Sophie Waples, Miss [Annie] Watson, Lizzie Churchman, and Harry du[Pont].

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.3cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Thomasville, Ga.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. February 1887].

Is delighted with accounts she has received of Annie's trip, and her resourcefulness in meeting emergencies. Tells of parties and "a German" her grandchildren Annie and Lexie [Alexis duPont] are attending. Describes several dresses, among them her own with "black silk velvet waist, and under skirt almost entirely of velvet, with silk drapery behind and a black silk train". Mentions Mrs. . . . Marsh, Mrs. . . . Wales and daughter, Mr. . . . Biggs, Helen Kobbe, and Mrs. Press Lea. The Bishop [Alfred Lee] has a severe case of intermittent fever.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.3cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Thomasville, Ga.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post Feb. 21, 1887].

Has missed her during this long, bitter winter. Has been sewing and fixing her house. Is pleased with the library, which now has a fine tall mantel glass and "a beautiful stuffed & tufted brown & red terry chair" with "inlaid wood and medalion head" among its furnishings. Lists her birthday presents, including a two pound box of "Whitman's sugar plums". Speaks of her grandchildren Annie and Lexie [Alexis duPont]. Wants to talk to Mr. [Alexander] Johnson about "the rascally conduct of the commission. Those '8' ought to be tarred & feathered. They are as bad as the Returning Board".

A. L. U. 4 pp. 14.7cm. x 15cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Thomasville, Ga.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Feb. 24, [c. 1887].

Treasures her birthday letter. Entertained her granddaughter Annie [duPont] and Helen Kobbe who were staying in town for a whist party and "a German". Eugene and Amy [duPont] are at Old Point Comfort, [Virginia]. So also are [Bishop Alfred Lee] and his daughter Clemma McIlvaine. Both men are convalescents. Refers to the McIlvaine children, Julia, Emily and

Lee who are visiting with her; the duPont children; Louis duPont; Miss White [a governess?]; Mollie [Ridgely]; Harry duPont; Alfred [Lee, Jr.]; Miss . . . DuBois; "poor Miss [Isabel] Monro"; and Miss [Annie] Watson.

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 12.4cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Thomasville, Ga.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post Feb. 26, 1887].

Teases her about attentive Southern gentlemen, and rejoices in her improving health. Tells of a dinner in honor of her own and Amy's [duPont] birthdays, describing the table arrangement, the service and the handsome gifts both received. Harry [duPont] wishes Annie "were here for [John L.] Stoddard's [travel] lectures which are so fine". Refers to the various members of the duPont family.

A. L. U. 5 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Thomasville, Ga.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. March 1887].

Comments upon the exceptionally changeable weather. Alludes to the sorrow Miss [Isabel] Monroe's death caused her friends. Worries about Bishop [Alfred Lee], who has typhoid fever. Mentions Mrs. [Myers C.] Conwell and her [deceased] husband, Mrs. Lizzie Churchman, Myers Conwell, and Minnie [Conwell] and [Horace T.] Carpenter. Mrs. . . . Adams died yesterday of peritonitis. Pities her dependants, Sophie . . . and Mrs. . . . Turner. Will send copies of the *Every Evening*

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 12cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post June 3, 1887].

Asks her niece to help her look over the old papers in the attic of her father's [H. M. Ridgely] house, and to inspect all its rooms with her, "even the garret room which used to hold the 'Pall' ". Now fears no ghosts since she herself is so near the spirit world. "Poor dear old house; it is sad to see it closed, but indeed it does look like the ghost of my youth". Rain and rosebugs have ruined the peaches. Speaks of Mollie [Ridgely], Mrs. . . . Draper, Ann Lea, Ella Bradford, Fanny Coleman, Mr. . . . Gassner, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Bessie [Johnson], [the photographer] Garret, and her own family. Liked Dr. [Daniel] Harrison; "Hity [Ridgely] looks very happy".

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, July 7, 1887.

The intense heat makes all activity unbearable and ice cream the one tempting food. Envies the Johnsons their cool grove and lawn. Is delighted Annie has improved enough to

substitute corsets for her brace. Mentions Gabri[elle] Swift and daughter [Amelia Elizabeth Swift], Bessie [Johnson], Mrs. . . . Jones, Mrs. [H. G. Banning], and an impertinent unidentified caller. Thinks "the old [Ridgely] house" [on Dover Green] must be repaired or torn down, for it is now unrentable and could be sold only at great loss.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], July 14, [c. 1887].

Plans "our picnic at the old house" when the heat abates. Need take only tableware and linens since supplies for the week's stay can be bought in Dover. Purchased two "linen lawns" in white and black. Speaks of Dr. . . . Lea, Mollie [Ridgely], wedding presents for "Heitty" [Harriet Ridgely], and Mrs. Henry duPont's approaching golden wedding anniversary.

A. L. [S. implied] 3 pp. 12.6cm. 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post July 14, 1887].

Continues discussion of the trip to Dover to work in the old house. Refers to the summer plans made by various members of the family, and to some of the wedding gifts sent "Hity" [Harriet Ridgely].

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from WILLIAMINA PORTER, New London, Conn., July 17, 1887.

Encloses a letter from "Juliet" [née Wright], who was "the only daughter" of Elizabeth Ridgely's beloved "Uncle [W. W.] Wright"; she is a woman of exceptional executive ability.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.4cm. x 17.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. August 1887].

Complains of the cold weather which is spoiling late summer vacations. Mentions the resorts Glen Summit and Eagles Mere. Tracks for the Wilmington street railway on Market St. to Riverview Cemetery are being laid, but the "motor cars" for the line may not be ready until November. Refers to plans for looking over the books and papers in [H. M. Ridgely's] house, a sofa from it apparently given Amy [duPont], and Harriet's [Ridgely] approaching wedding "White linen lawn" is a stylish summer fabric. Attended Henry and Louisa duPont's golden wedding.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, Sept. 5, 1887.

Is concerned that she has had "the chills" on her short visit home. Prescribes quinine and whiskey as well as the doctor's tonic, and a trip to the mountains. Inquires about Mrs. . . . Powell's death. Mentions Mollie [Ridgely], Aunt Sophie [duPont], Mrs. . . . Jones, Annie Gassner and the late Mrs. Sally Ann Ridgely. Complains of the condition in which the house on The Green was turned over to the Ridgely heirs and tells of some of the work she has done there. Discusses the "fireplace stove" and the "pretty grate" it replaced. The peach crop was fair.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from THE REV. WILLIAM STEVENS PERRY, Bishop of Iowa, Hotel Beauvirase, Geneva, Switzerland, Sept. 6, 1887.

Expresses great interest in the letters of Bishop [Charles] Inglis to Dr. Charles G[reenberry] Ridgely. Would like to use them if he can republish his *Church Review* articles in more substantial form. Asks if the Ridgely papers include any from Bishop [William] White of Pennsylvania. Thinks a *Life and Correspondence of Dr. Ridgely* might "prove a valuable contribution to our church annals". Will be in Philadelphia after his return to the United States.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.3cm.

MRS. C[HARLES] I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from [MRS.] SOPHIE [DUPONT], near Wilmington, ante 1888].

Mentions the "loss of y[ou]r dear friend and paster". Is "thankful Mary (Cooper) Smith's life is spared".

A. N. S. 1 p. 11.9cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Jan. 9, 1888].

Knows she will share the duPonts' grief over Aunt Sophie's [duPont] sudden death from neuralgia of the heart. "To me it seems as if half of the Brandywine is gone". Mentions "the sale of the books" in Dover recently, Christmas and New Year's gifts, the Southern friends her niece met last winter, the extortionate price of \$32.50 for refinishing a table and "my Thorndyke", and the remarkable bargains in dresses being offered in Philadelphia.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.4cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, Jan. 22, 1888.

Summarizes Aunt Sophie's [duPont] will, which made bequests to relatives, dependents, friends, charities, the church and "E. I. duPont and company". Considers the legacies to Mary

duPont, Mollie [Ridgely] both generous and thoughtful. Could not attend the funeral because of painful poisoning from an insect bite. Urges her niece to continue attempts to take cod liver oil and whiskey.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. Feb. 1888].

Is delighted she is struggling to take cod liver oil this unusually cold winter. Mollie's [Ridgely] dozen bottles a season prove a great protection. Dose is 2 parts or more whiskey to one oil. Wilmington's streets are sheets of ice or rivers of slush one must cross in rubber boots. Tells of Mrs. . . . Meyer's illness, the death of Julia Dunning's infant, Elsie duPont's engagement to her double cousin [Coleman] duPont of Louisville, [Kentucky], the difficulty of selling Bishop [Alfred] Lee's home because he died of typhoid, and Aunt Sophie's [duPont] estate. "Upwards of \$800.00" has been spent at the Dover house on the outside alone. Mentions Uncle Ned [Edward Ridgely] "brother Charles" [George Ridgely] children" and Harry Ridgely.

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 13cm. x 20.4cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, Feb. 19, [1888].

Acknowledges a birthday gift of cakes and a pea hen, the latter a delicacy so extravagant she never expected to taste it. Outlines the contract proposed between Albert Cowgill and the Ridgely heirs for repair and occupancy of the old house. Installation of a bathroom, hot and cold running water in place of the "old yard pump", papering, painting, changes in certain stairways, and opening of a large doorway from dining room to parlor are its major features. Thinks cream & whiskey will be a suitable substitute for cod liver oil which Annie cannot take. Alludes to Ziba Ferris' death in agony from a jaw injury suffered during extraction of a tooth, and to another death among the Lee's relatives.

A. L. U. 5 pp. 13cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Feb.] 28, [1888].

Served the pea hen at her birthday dinner, with turkey, vegetables, terrapin, ice cream, cake, Charlotte Russe, fruit, champagne and claret accompanying it on the seven course menu. Her own and Amy's [duPont] gifts included vases, needlework, fine glassware and china, jewelry, "grape scissors", and *Lippincott's [Magazine]*. Mollie [Ridgely] finds cod liver oil helpful. A "fearful powder mill explosion" took Eugene [duPont] to

Wapwallapon [Pennsylvania]. Mr. . . . Polk, George Bates and Victor [duPont] are all sick. Mentions Bessie [Johnson], her servants Bridget . . . and Joanna . . . and her [dogs] "Quiz" and "Roma".

A. L. [S. implied] 5 pp. 13cm. x 20.4cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. April] 29, [c. 1888].

Worries over Annie's illness, and the fact that she was "blistered", so weakening a treatment, instead of having mustard plasters. Attended Mrs. [Joseph] Comegys' funeral. Aunt Virginia [Ridgely] is improving after a serious illness. Is reading Homer's *Iliad* to Mollie [Ridgely], Clemma McIlvaine, General [George] Zinn's wife, Miss . . . Knight, "young Mrs. Alfred duPont", Miss . . . Hills, and Amy and Annie [duPont]. Also mentions Harriet and [Joseph] Comegys; Ruthanna and Helen Harrington; and Annie Kemp. Discusses alterations at "the old house" in Dover; wonders why the kitchen was rebuilt.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, ante May 13, 1888].

Is delighted to hear of Annie's improvement. Was ready to come down when Victor's [duPont] condition became so grave she could not leave. Expects his death hourly. Pities Mary [duPont] who adores this brother. Makes arrangements for sending Annie a bottle of cologne and more oranges, and for bringing her to Wilmington for convalescence. Recommends Dr. [William R.] Bullock's tonic.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, June 8, 1888.

Her own health has been poor. Found the oranges she just sent with the greatest difficulty, for the season is over. Visited the [Ridgely] house in Dover after Mrs. [Joseph] Comegys' funeral. Considers the "tremendous cost" of improvements well invested for it is now "a nice house inside and out". Thinks Mr. [Rev. Leighton] Coleman would make a good bishop. Mentions Amy and Annie [duPont], Mollie [Ridgely], Mrs. . . . Lee and the Johnsons.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MISS ANNIE [DUPONT], Peekskill, New York, June 12, [c. 1888].

Writes enthusiastically of "this lovely place", a large Queen Anne house on a hill overlooking the Hudson, with a fine stone terrace surrounding it. One of its attractions is a beautiful fernery, much larger than her grandmother's. Has had several "gentlemen to call upon me" and is quietly enjoying herself.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. June] 14, [c. 1888].

Appreciates Nick's [Johnson] thoughtfulness in sending his father to report on Annie's condition. Encourages her not to worry about the hemorrhage if she can gain strength, for Lizzie Rumford has fully recovered after being quite as sick. Is herself still too ill to come down, though she is better. Is limited to a diet of beef tea, prepared wheat and an occasional broiled mutton chop. Suggests her niece eat southern tomatoes since oranges are gone. Refers to Harry [duPont] and Mollie [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.3cm. x 20cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post June 14, 1888].

Harry [duPont] will be delighted to secure the [out-of-season] tomatoes for Annie [Johnson]. Recommends elixir of vitriol for "night sweats", a remedy that cured Mollie [Ridgely]. Explains how it can be taken without injury to the teeth. Also suggests whiskey instead of wine as a tonic, with whatever milk she can drink.

A. L. [S. implied] 3 pp. 12.4cm. x 20cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. June 24, 1888].

Is "greatly distressed" at hearing Annie [Johnson] is worse. The doctor advises that Annie be given chilled milk with lime-water, four grains of quinine daily, and whiskey or wine "when-ever her stomach can bear it". Plans for her to come to Wilmington when she is able to travel. Begs to be kept constantly informed. Would come at once herself but is too sick to dress.

A. L. U. 3 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, no address], from NICH-[OLAS] J[OHNSON], Farmington, Del., July 31, 1888.

Cannot reconcile himself to the death of his sister Annie [Johnson] of whom he was devotedly fond. Writes of her at length. Now has only his aunt to turn to in his grief and loneliness, "as you are the only one who seems to care for me".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

ALFRED [DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MRS.] ANN R. DUPONT, Wilmington, Nov. 19, 1888.

Tells of her promise to Captain [later Admiral] Harrington to obtain a picture of Admiral S. F. duPont for the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. Proposes either a crayon or an oil painting and encloses her letter to Henry [duPont] and his reply and asks that these be shown to Bidderman [duPont]. Suggests his children may wish to contribute as Harry, Amy, and Eugene [duPont] are contributors.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11cm. x 17.5cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. D[U]P[ONT], Wilmington, c. December 1888].

Alludes to a tragedy in the Pennewill family, which saddened a wedding. "What a sad fatality attends the family". Remarks that pictures are much less expensive in Wilmington than in Philadelphia. She misses Annie [Johnson] greatly at the holidays. Wonders if Mr. [George] V. Massey, who is considering renting [H. M. Ridgely's] office, will be chosen Senator.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12cm. x 20.3cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Dec. 28, [c. 1888].

Acknowledges a Christmas gift of partridges, just such a thoughtful offering as Annie [Johnson] would have sent. Her own grief suggests how deeply her niece's immediate family must miss her. Mentions other gifts, among them a handsome "plate from Caldwell's", a fruit cake, books, "pieces of lovely work" from her nieces "Heity" [Mrs. Daniel Harrison] and Sallie [Ridgely], a "waiter cover", and an elaborately worked scrap bag from Aunt Virginia [Ridgely]. Sends messages to each of the Johnson family. Remarks about the "desperate fight" already being waged between [Charles H.] Treat and [Anthony] Higgins for the [U. S.] Senatorship.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. D[U]P[ONT], Wilmington], Jan. 2, 1889.

Sends a box of sugar plums as a New Year's remembrance. Shared the partridges he sent with Amy [duPont] who served them at the family New Year's dinner. Uncle Henry [Ridgely] has been gravely ill of erysipelas.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.8cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. d[u]P[ONT, Wilmington, c. Jan.] 14, [1889].

At the Old Women's Home, where Annie [Johnson] used to visit an aged former neighbor, she is remembered affectionately as "that sweet young lady". Supposes he is in Dover "to watch the fight" between Messrs. [George V.] Massey, [Nathaniel] Smithers and [Anthony] Higgins for the [U. S.] Senatorship. Fears the unusually mild winter will injure the peaches. Sends Bessie [Johnson] a *London News*, for its "remarkably pretty" pictures.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 12.8cm. x 20cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. d[u]P[ONT, Wilmington], May 17, 1889.

Thinks a just-completed portrait of [Charles I. duPont] "the most speaking likeness I ever saw". Is anxious for "your father" [Alexander Johnson] to see it. Offers to "watch and criticize" the sketch if the Johnson's decide to have one of Annie [Johnson] made. Believes equal workmanship would cost \$60.00 elsewhere; the Wilmington artist asks twenty. Inquires about the peaches, complains of having rheumatism for the first time in her life, and sympathizes with Mr. [John P.] Saulsbury's young widow. A summer as warm as in the Centennial year is being predicted.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.3cm. x 20cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], June 8, [1889].

Mrs. . . . Elwell has nearly finished the portrait of Annie Johnson. Thinks it is excellent. Suggests the most convenient method of paying the \$20.00 bill for the picture and \$4.00 for the frame.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. June] 10, [1889].

The low price of corn and canned fruit, twelve cents for fine peaches, thirty-six cents per bushel for corn "makes farms a failure". Fears she will not soon repeat last year's good season. Though "the lady who takes crayon pictures" has left Wilmington, believes she will still accept commissions and suggests that all pictures of Annie [Johnson] be brought up for study. Loved this niece next to her own children. Repeats Cousin Helen's [Rogers] story of "the time they had with the newspaper reporters" when it became known that her son-in-law Stetson would go into partnership with his friend of long standing, President [Grover] Cleveland. Mrs. Rogers found Mrs.

Cleveland charming when she visited the Stetson home. Discusses minor business concerned with the final settlement of her father's [H. M. Ridgely] estate mentioning [Dr.] Henry, Eugene and Edward Ridgely and the Johnson family.

A. L. U. 5 pp. 12.3cm. x 20.3cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] d[U]P[ONT], June 13, [c. 1889].

Hopes Annie's [Johnson] "likeness" will please her family as much as it does Wilmington relatives and friends. The artist, Mrs. . . . Elwell, will make any changes the family wishes. Remarks that a picture [of Charles I. duPont] which she, Amy and Harry [duPont] like very much fails to please others of her husband's family. Hopes the excessive rain has not spoiled the peach crop; pities farmers who have already lost heavily on strawberries.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.4cm. x 18cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. d[U]P[ONT], Wilmington, ante July 5, 1889].

Wants him to see his sister's portrait before alterations are suggested to the artist. The likeness is good but in one respect can be improved. Enjoyed a visit from "Hity" [née Harriet Ridgely] and her husband Dr. [Daniel H.] Harrison, whom the family all like. Alterations in her own house are nearly finished. Chancellor and Mrs. [Willard] Saulsbury are grief-stricken over their son's death.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. d[U]P[ONT], Wilmington, c. October 1889].

Mrs. . . . Elwell, though still frail following the birth of her child. has come to alter the portrait of Annie [Johnson]. "It [now] looks to me just as Annie [Johnson] did when she was in perfect health". Is glad the Johnsons had a fair crop of peaches. Farms around Dover had almost none. Uncle Henry and Aunt Virginia [Ridgely] were at Atlantic City [New Jersey] during a recent severe storm. Refers to the unveiling of a memorial to Caesar Rodney. Mentions Mr. [Thomas F.] Bayard and Mrs. [H. G.] Banning.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post Oct. 30, 1889].

Regrets that he has no [railroad] pass but assumes one will be issued soon. Has barely recovered from grippe, which is widespread in Wilmington this year. Severe illnesses or deaths

have occurred. Liked Mrs. Tom [Thomas F.] Bayard, who recently called. Offers her nephew her second copy of the scarce "Rodney pamphlet with the addition of the resolutions of the Convention". Mentions Dr. [William H.] Bullock, Dr. [R. G.] Johnson, Mrs. [William] Breck, Mrs. Henry duPont, "cousin Amy's [duPont] family", Mr. [Thomas] Bayard, Mr. . . . Bird, the Johnsons, Harry [duPont] and Mollie [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12cm. x 20cm.

NICHOLAS R. JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], April 6, 1890.

Wishes him success in winning his "bright-eyed gypsy". Chose cut glass for a gift sent in his name to Daisy Wilson of Dover, since it is the most "esteemed and fashionable" present and offered a wider choice than pictures. ". . . your letter about the peach crop is dismally satisfactory. The outlook of the poor farmers and landlords is doleful in the extreme and one cannot imagine what they will turn to for encouragement". Asks about Al Coagill [Cowgill], tenant of the old Ridgely home on the Green.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11cm. x 17cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. d[U]P[ONT, Wilmington], April 19, 1890.

Was glad to learn Miss [Daisy] Wilson liked the gift, and that she herself was able to fill their beloved Annie's [Johnson] place in shopping for her nephew. Feels the loss of the peach crop herself, but "it is for others I grieve". Promises to do all she can, when she entertains "the bright-eyed Gypsy, . . . to make her like Delaware enough to stay here".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], 1223 Market St., [Wilmington], May 18, [1890].

Discusses the checkered farm prospects. Her peach trees, though healthy, are bare of fruit. Tells of Mrs. [Frank] Stetson's grief over her mother's [Mrs. Helen Rogers] death. Mollie [Ridgely] is visiting her now and she herself has promised to follow. As a comfort for the grief-stricken daughter, will sleep in her deceased cousin's room before leaving so that Mrs. Stetson can bring herself to admit others to it later. Was surprised to learn that Dr. [Daniel] Harrison had resigned at St. Johns Land and plans, with Dr. . . . Arnold, to establish "a private Asylum" on Long Island. Speaks of "Mrs. . . . Rock, the rich woman who has come to Delaware to get a divorce".

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.4cm.

NICHOLAS R. JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, July 2, 1890.

Recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stetson in New York in the hope of comforting Lizzie who still grieves morbidly over her mother's [Mrs. Helen Rogers] death, keeping her room one of mourning, where she went to "weep and pray". Occupied her deceased cousin's room and slept on her bed, which seems to have helped the daughter's state of mind. The Stetsons proved thoughtful and charming hosts throughout the visit. Was delighted with Mrs. [Grover] Cleveland, who was a guest at lunch; "Nick, she is lovely! . . . as unaffected, unspoiled as anyone I ever saw, with the freshness and sweetness of a girl who never received a compliment . . . What a contrast she is to Mrs. [Benjamin] Harrison. She is yet 'the first lady of the land'—her features are faultless, her smile lovely, and her manner has a tinge of embarrassment, as being young among those so much older". Reminsces about a visit she herself once made to Washington, and about her beloved niece Annie [Johnson]. Alludes to a recent marriage which she regards as a misalliance. Hopes Nick will soon receive a pass and resume his frequent visits to Wilmington which she and Harry [duPont] have always enjoyed so much.

A. L. [S. implied] 9 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. ANN [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Market St., Wilmington, from MRS. E. A. ELLIOTT, 50 Irvine Park, St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 27, [18]90.

A seventy-five-year-old cousin reminisces about a childhood visit to Dover. Recalls Ann as a beautiful girl, reciting poetry as they strolled together on the Green. Speaks of Senator [Henry M.] Ridgely's pleasure when his young guest slipped in to listen as he paced his library, reading aloud to himself. Offers [Molly Ridgely] a few letters received from her father [Rev. Nicholas Ridgely]. Mentions her brothers John and William [Banning] and sister Mrs. . . . Horne.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from J. LEROY WHITE, 905 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md., Sept. 17, [c. 1890].

Is sending a photograph of a portrait of his grandmother, who was a Ridgely, and one of the Maryland Ridgely homestead, "Hampton" built c. 1783. Alludes to a recent visit to Wilmington.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.4cm. x 17.5cm.

[MR. J. LEROY WHITE, Baltimore, Md.], from [MRS.] ANN R. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, Oct. 8, [c. 1890].

Acknowledges a photograph of Mr. White's grandmother and one of himself. Promises a picture of the house at "Eden Hill" and a copy of a sketch of Nicholas Ridgely from the "Magazine of the Pennsylvania Historical Society". Tells of receiving, after her stepmother's death, eight three-bushel bags of Ridgely, Dulany and Comegys papers which had lain neglected in a loft during [Mrs.] S. A. Ridgely's forty years of widowhood, and of her [own] efforts to salvage them. Four bags of Dulany papers were beyond rescue. The oldest Ridgely papers were in the Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely] possession, and were destroyed at his death. Refers to her son and daughter, Molly [Ridgely], and her beloved granddaughter [Anne duPont].

A. L. S. 5 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. DUPONT, [Wilmington, c. Nov.] 24, [c. 1890].

Acknowledges a gift of partridges. Tells of a tea given by Mollie [Ridgely] for Mary Lee, daughter of Dr. . . . Lee. Remarks about the beauty of Annie Grey, George Grey's young daughter. Urges her nephew to pay a visit soon.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.3cm. x 20.3cm.

[MR. NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, post 1890].

Is sorry "the cholera scare" has prevented him and Bessie [Johnson] from visiting her. Recalls an immigrant family who, in 1853, contracted cholera just after reaching her estate. She and Mary duPont served the doctors who stayed at her house watching over the one survivor among those stricken, because her servants refused to do so. She prepared food for the victim, took it to her cottage, and when she began to recover, visited her. "She was the color of mahogany & her skin lay in such folds you might apparently have lifted it off her". Appreciates Henry's [Ridgely] help in managing her affairs in Kent County.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11cm. x 17.6cm.

NICK [MR. NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. Jan.] 25, [c. 1891].

Is disappointed at her nephew's failure to obtain the office he sought. Thinks it ridiculous to select a [State] Treasurer "because he is poor". Wrote to Mr. [Thomas F.] Bayard against the advice of her son who disapproved "a woman writing to a politician for office". Adds angrily "I don't believe, my dear Nick, that a politician has any gratitude . . . Self is the per-

vading feeling, his party's success and through his party's success to himself". Harry [duPont] and Mollie [Ridgely] share her disappointment. Doubts that the Democrats "will distinguish themselves in our Legislature".

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 17.7cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], June 3, [c. 1891].

Must postpone his visit because she expects Mrs. [Charles] McArthur, daughter of her beloved cousin Mrs. [Edward] Gillilan, from England. The party will include the young visitor's husband, Rev. Mr. [Charles] McArthur, his brother and Mr. and Mrs. [Frank] Stetson. Especially deplores the Johnson's peach failure because the crop in Kent County promises to be extraordinary. Harry [duPont] is recovering from an illness. Sends an affectionate greeting to Bessie [Johnson]. Complains of the enervating heat.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], July 1, 1891.

Promises a description of her daughter's [Mrs. Eugene duPont] reception. Harry [duPont] is "better, but still very miserable". Mentions Ruthanna [Harrington], Aunt Lizzie [Mrs. Edward Ridgely], Bessie [Johnson], Mollie [Ridgely], Charles Breck and Edward Swift.

A. L. [S. implied] 3 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

[MR. NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. July] 19, [c. 1891].

Is sorry she cannot entertain the Misses Flemming. Her own ill health as well as her son's [Henry R. duPont] forces her to go to Saratoga [New York] as soon as possible. Suggests his guests may enjoy a trip to Rehoboth [Delaware]. Mentions Amy [duPont]. Fears the peaches are "ripening prematurely".

A. L. U. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MR. NICHOLAS R. JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] D[U]P[ONT], Wilmington, Aug. 19, [18]91.

Hopes to start for Saratoga [New York] at once, after being delayed by further illness.

A. N. S. 1 p. [postcard] 7.6cm. x 13cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], March 20, [c. 1892].

Tells of a family dinner party in honor of her birthday. Mollie [Ridgely] is visiting the [Frank] Stetsons in New York and hopes to meet [President Grover] Cleveland there informally. Refers disapprovingly to the remarriages of several divorced relatives and acquaintances. Alludes to Aunt Virginia's [Ridgely] illness. Supposes the peach crop has been ruined. She and Harry [duPont] both have rheumatism.

A. L. [S. implied] 8 pp. 11cm. x 17.7cm.

NICHOLAS R. JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, May 1, [18]92.

Writes of overseeing the housepainters; Harry's [duPont] ill health; the effect of the "cold and variable season" on the peach crop; the plans of Williamina Porter whose parents have recently died; Frank Stetson's constant overwork; and her own affection for her deceased niece and sister, Annie and "Willie" [Johnson]. At seventy-seven she envies those of her family who died young. Alludes to the "lamentable" state of the Delaware judiciary and a "disgraceful . . . scene on the Bench in Dover", mentioning Judges [Ignatius C.] Grubb, [Charles M.] Cullen and [Joseph P.] Comegys.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11cm. x 17cm.

NICHOLAS R. JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from A[NN] R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] D[U]P[ONT], Wilmington, July 9, [18]92.

Is disappointed that he and Bessie [Johnson] must postpone a visit. H[arry duPont] is still suffering from rheumatism.

A. N. S. 1 p. [postcard] 7.5cm. x 11.8cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. Nov. 7, 1892].

Is delighted that he wants to spend his fortieth birthday at her home. Writes appreciatively of the "comfort and blessing" he has been to his sister and his father, and of her own deep affection for him. Writes of politics, mentioning her own son Harry [duPont], . . . Saulsbury, [Thomas A.] Bayard, and "Infamy Higgins" whom she considers disgraced by a charge of buying votes.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 18cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. Dec. 1892].

Reports that Harry [duPont] is slightly better after a severe attack of gout. She herself, though younger than Nick's father, [Alexander Johnson], feels herself "more infirm . . . life is a burden and I will be glad to go at God's call". Is pleased with a Thanksgiving greeting from Lizzie Stetson, with news of Frank [Stetson] and the [Grover] Clevelands. Mentions "baby Ruth [Cleveland]." Has induced Harry to see a physician, Dr. [R. P.] Greenleaf, who is "not like the whirlwind Dr. [James A.] Draper". Implies that the family blame a physician Dr. Draper called into consultation for Annie Johnson's death.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.6cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, from HENRY VINING OGDEN, New Orleans, [La.], Jan. 20, 1893.

Inquired, during a recent trip, about records of the Vining family. Learned his mother's correspondence with her sister Maria Vining was destroyed. Is sending "a manuscript book written by Maria Vining and her son W[illiam] H. V[ining]" for filing with the Seton chart and for its "melancholy kind of interest". Mentions possible sources of genealogical information, and relatives recently seen or heard from.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 22.4cm. x 14.5cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from V[IRGINIA, MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], March 16, [18]93.

Has just returned from a visit to a winter shore resort with their granddaughter, Virginia [Harrington], and her friend Lucy Richardson. Several other Dover families were there. Mr. . . . Gassner's second wife is dead.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.8cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from V[IRGINIA, MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], April 2, [18]93.

Has valued Ann's friendship throughout her marriage. Refers to a recent pleasant visit with her. On the return journey she narrowly escaped death when her horse bolted at a railway crossing. Hears Henry [Ridgely, son of Edward] and Mabel [Fisher] will soon marry. Describes them. Mentions her own daughter Ruthanna [Harrington], Maria Comegys, and Eugene [Ridgely] and family.

A. L. S. 7 pp. 11cm. x 17.5cm

NICHOLAS [JOHNSON], Farmington, Del., from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT], Wilmington, April 10, 1893.

Will welcome him when the redecorating is finished. Approves his decision not to "let the [Mary] Vining china go" [to an exhibition] but has reluctantly lent her own one piece of it. Speaks of a sample of the [Continental] script [John] Banning "redeemed with hard money to pay off the Revolutionary soldiers", a Pine tree shilling Aunt [Mary B.] Ridgely gave her from the Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely] collection, and her regret that his other old coins were given to [Rev.] Nicholas [Ridgely] and have now been scattered.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11cm. x 17.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from JOSEPH BEERS, Middletown, Del., May 6, 1893.

Sympathizes with Mrs. duPont's grief over the death of her son [Henry R. duPont, on April 29, 1893].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from WATSON R. SPERRY, U. S. Legation, Teheran, Persia, June 4, 1893.

Offers condolance on the death of Henry R. duPont, whom he remembers as "always a gentleman . . . even with old Isaac, . . . certainly an extreme test". Hopes his mother will be somewhat comforted by the sympathy of her friends and by her faith in immortality.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

[NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], June 20, [1893].

Appreciates his comforting letter written "so soon" after her son's [Henry R. duPont] death. Misses him deeply, but would not bring him back to the ill health he has suffered in recent years. Speaks of the cousins' affection for one another. Refers to telephone conversations, the "little short tailed kitten", [the cat] "Jap", a destructive drought, and Mollie's [Ridgely] collection of one hundred twenty-one stamps.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 18cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. July 1893].

Thanks him again for his message of condolence. Is stronger, and has "ventured as far as 13th and King Streets". Discusses farm business, a collection of stamps, a wedding which she considers "truly a sad affair", and Dr. . . . Bradford, with whom she sympathizes. Offers Nick *Short Stories*, a magazine she took for Harry [duPont]; Bessie [Johnson] could read it aloud to him. "Grateful as I am . . . that dear Harry is . . . free from all suffering, yet I do so miss him that the tears will come".

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.6cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. Aug. 1893].

Misses her son intensely. On religious grounds, deplores May's [duPont] decision to remarry but sympathizes with her loneliness and the embarrassments divorce has subjected her to. Mentions a poor peach crop, plans for shipping "Jap and the kitten" to Farmington, and the visit Amy [duPont] and her family are making to the World's Fair.

A. L. U. 4 pp. 11cm. x 18cm.

AMY [MRS. EUGENE] DUPONT, near Chicago, Ill., from MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, Aug. 11, [c. 1893].

Hopes her daughter finds it comfortable in Chicago. Appreciates Annie's [duPont] frequent reports on their movements. Has the New Century Club tickets; stock certificates will be issued in the fall. Mentions Alfred and Frank duPont, Miss . . . Blank, Molly [Ridgely], and May [Mary Lamot duPont] whose engagement has drawn unfavorable comment.

A. L. U. 3 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.6cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Sept. 24, [1893].

Is pleased that Mrs. [Alexander] Johnson took Bessie [Johnson] to the World's Fair, an experience the girl will never forget. Has changed her plans for Harry's [duPont] pets; will keep timid "Jap" [a cat] and send only the kitten. Complains that her tenant is not managing ["Fox Hall"] well. Anne [duPont] is "very happy in her engagement" [to William C. Peyton]. Amy and Anne [duPont] and Molly [Ridgely] have been helping sort old Ridgely letters rescued from the attic of the Dover house. "There were eight two-bushel bags of paper" from which she herself sorted out the family letters and put them in a trunk awaiting further care.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11cm. x 17.4cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. D[U]P[ONT, Wilmington, c. Oct.] 5, [1893].

Offers him a pedigreed collie, a gift from Amy [duPont]. He is to write direct to his cousin to make arrangements for shipping it.

A. N. S. 1 p. 11.5cm. x 17.8cm.

MRS. ANN [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from E. L. ROGERS, Lan . . ., Nov. 7, [18]93.

Copies entries concerning the marriage of Mrs. Elizabeth Banning [widow of John] to William McKee and the births of Sarah and John Banning and Eliza[beth], William and Nancy

McKee from the Davis Bible given "my Helen" by "Willie" Porter. Hopes to exchange information concerning their common ancestors.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 9.8cm. x 15.5cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Nov. 8, [18]93.

Expects an artist from Philadelphia, formerly private secretary to Admiral [S. F.] duPont and a family acquaintance, to discuss a portrait to be made of Harry [duPont]. Refers to Ruthanna's [Harrington] approaching marriage to Dr. [James H.] Wilson, implying that her parents do not approve. Is distressed about Nicholas' vision.

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.6cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Dec. 11, 1893.

Chats about an expected visit from the [Frank] Stetsons, pets "Jap" and "Mitza", an afternoon with Harry Johnson and W. Kerbin, "the [Willard] Saulsbury-[Mary Lammot] duPont wedding", and the collapse of [servant] "old Isaac". Mentions Dr. . . . Bradford, Mollie [Ridgely], Amy and Annie [duPont].

A. L. [S. implied] 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

NICHOLAS R. JOHNSON, [Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. d[U]P[ONT, Wilmington], Dec. 22, [18]93.

Asks if she may have the "pencil likeness of my sister Elizabeth" [Ridgely] which belongs to the Johnsons. It is an amateur's work and valueless, but "so like her I long to have it by me". Remarks "I was the mother in charge of the [Ridgely] children and they were all like *my* children".

A. N. S. 2 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.8cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from WATSON R. SPERRY, Dresden, Germany, Feb. 16, 1894.

Has been prostrated by Persian fever but is improving. [His daughter] Betty's [Sperry] German is improving rapidly. Hopes to give her similar training in French. Julia [Sperry, his wife] is recovering from the strain of his illness.

A. L. S. 7 pp. 14.4cm. x 18.8cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, c. March 1894].

Invites him to visit when Mollie [Ridgely] attends a Colonial Dames' meeting in Washington [D. C.] if the press of farm work will allow. Anne [duPont] is happy in preparing for her wedding but fears she will be homesick in California. [Dr.

Henry Ridgely] is now "quite reconciled" to Ruthanna's [Harrington] marriage to Dr. [James H.] Wilson, which seems a happy one.

A. L. U. 4 pp. 11.4cm. x 17.8cm.

ANN, MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Market St., Wilmington, from M[ARGARETTA] E[LIZABETH] DUPONT, Wilmington, April 3, 1894.

Appreciates Ann's photograph, sent as a birthday gift.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 11.4cm. x 17cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from WATSON R. SPERRY, Dresden, Germany, April 28, 1894.

His health is improving. Describes the daily activities of his family. Spends much time reading European history. His physician recommends a trip to one of the German forests, but he hopes to come home during the summer to report to the State Department. Comments on the poor riding of German officers at a review before the Emperor. Mentions [Miss] Anne duPont's marriage [to William C. Peyton], an accident to Col. [W. A.] LaMotte, "the return of Dr. Bradford", and Miss . . . Crawford's death.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 11cm. x 17.7cm.

WILLIAM PEYTON [no address], from ANNE R. [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington, ante June 26, 1894].

Warmly welcomes the prospective husband of her "namesake and darling grandchild", [Anne R. duPont].

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 11.5cm. x 17.5cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from WATSON R. SPERRY, Hotel Bellevue, Baden Baden, Germany, Aug. 21, 1894.

Has spent a month in Baden Baden "in the rain". Describes the countryside, old castles and "new" chateaux only "from two hundred to four hundred years old". Tells of a private chapel of great interest. Music is not so good here as at Dresden. Speaks of German and Dutch friends. Understands why Mrs. duPont was taken in Europe for English, commenting: "There are several kinds of Americans who come over here".

A. L. S. 5 pp. 11.5cm. x 17.5cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from HENRY VINING OGDEN, Milwaukee, [Wis.], Oct. 1, 1894.

Acknowledges a "photo of Miss [Mary] Vining's portrait". Refers to [Anne duPont's] wedding. Mentions Mrs. . . . Briggs, Miss . . . Ogden a descendant of General Matthias Ogden, and his own son H. V. Ogden, Jr.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 14.8cm. x 23.6cm.

ANN, [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MRS.] E[LIZABETH] GILLILAN, "The Grange", Christ Church, Cheltenham, [England], Nov. 10, 1894.

Was pleased to have an account of [Anne duPont's] wedding but is sorry she will live at such a distance. Mentions her sister Juliet's [née Wright] children, her own daughters Clara [Mac Arthur] and Julia [Gillilan]. Recalls spending summer evenings in Dover during her girlhood, "sitting on the Porch in the twilight, with large bunches of mint, on fire, to keep the mosquitoes off!" Her health is excellent, despite her advanced age.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 10cm. x 15.4cm.

AMY [MRS. EUGENE DUPONT, near Wilmington], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Jan. 2, 1895.

Regrets that the weather kept her from spending New Year's Day with her daughter. Was "right low spirited" for a while in the evening recalling "every New Years day for seventy-five years". Mentions members of the family and various callers.

A. L. U. 5 pp. 11.4cm. x 17.6cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from WATSON R. SPERRY, Dresden, Germany, Jan. 7, 1895.

Tells of a trip through the Rhine and Moselle Valleys to Luzerne, Switzerland, and thence to Milan, Venice and Vienna. Recounts incidents, refers to art treasures, music, scenic beauty enjoyed, and occasionally comments on historic backgrounds. Especially notes a monument commemorating the extension of the German border in 1870-71 "rectifying the robbery of German territory by . . . Napoleon"; Milan Cathedral; Venice; and "Tell's village". Speaks of a German friend, an army officer of distinguished family and long military tradition. Describes "a good old-fashioned German winter". Refers to Betty's [Sperry] social activities; to renting their Wilmington home; and to the marriage of Anne duPont.

A. L. S. 10 pp. 11cm. x 17.8cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], Jan. 30, [c. 1895].

Remarks she "does not know what possessed her to come into the world in February" when she so hates the cold. "Hity" [Mrs. Daniel A.] Harrison lost a trunk in an express office fire at Jersey City [New Jersey] during a recent visit home. Mentions her son Ned [Edward Harrison]. Uncle Henry and Aunt Virginia [Ridgely] write frequent, enthusiastic letters about their trip to Florida and have sent interesting pictures and curios. Comments acidly upon Governors [Joshua H.] Marvel and [Robert J.] Reynolds, and the parts [Anthony] Higgins, [Thomas] Attix and [George V.] Massey are playing in the Senatorial

contest. Is surprised the [Cleveland] Administration has not repealed the income tax which falls so heavily on people like Mollie [Ridgely]. Likes [President] Cleveland's proposal for "the 50 years bond". Mentions Mr. [Watson] Sperry. Anne [Peyton] will soon be home from California on a visit.

A. L. U. 5 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington, from WATSON R. SPERRY, Dresden, Germany, Feb. 6, 1895.

With his greetings upon her eightieth birthday [February 21], expresses his appreciation of her character and vigorous intellect.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.8cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from WILLIAM C. PEYTON, Santa Cruz, Calif., March 7, 1895.

Is pleased that his birthday gift proved acceptable. Is sorry he could not accompany his wife East to deliver greetings in person.

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.7cm. x 19.7cm.

CLARA [MRS. CHARLES McARTHUR] and [MISS] JULIA [GILLILAN, Cheltenham, England], from ANN RIDGELY [MRS. CHARLES I.] DUPONT, Wilmington, April 10, [18]95.

Writes the two daughters of "Cousin Elizabeth" [Gillilan] in affectionate remembrance of their mother, whom she had "loved . . . longer than anyone now alive". Asks both to write her occasionally.

A. Df. S. 4 pp. 11.4cm. x 17.5cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from WATSON R. SPERRY, Villa Lucia, Schandau, Germany, July 16, 1895.

Julia [Sperry] has been ill since January but is recovering. They are spending the summer at a quiet resort on the Elbe. Mentions a pleasant group of Russian friends, also Betty [Sperry], Anna . . . the Grand Duchess of Schleswig-Holstein, their Wilmington tenant Mr. . . . Galloway, and a reception for "your granddaughter Mrs. [William C.] Peyton".

A. L. S. 6 pp. 11.3cm. x 18cm.

ANN [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from ELIZABETH ALFORD SMITH, Trenton, [N. J.], Dec. 4, [18]95.

In settling her affairs has left "The picture of our Grandmother Eliza[beth] McKee" to Ann. Asks her to suggest an alternate heir likely to outlive them both.

A. L. S. 8 pp. 11.5cm. x 17cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from WATSON R. SPERRY, Dresden, Germany, Feb. 19, 1896.

Tells of his wife's continued serious illness. Has taken an eight-room apartment in a quieter section of town. Anna . . . and Betty [Sperry] spent the winter in Italy and Switzerland. The latter is now in Geneva studying French and cooking. She is engaged to a young German whose appearance, tastes and family background they approved, though they wish he was an American. Refers to water damage to their home in Wilmington.

A. L. S. 8 pp. 11.4cm. x 17.9cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from WATSON R. SPERRY, Dresden, Germany, April 7, 1896.

Is sorry to learn of Mrs. duPont's poor health. His wife is improving slowly under electrical treatment. Plans a brief visit to America. "Everything in Germany very methodical, even nature". Thinks Col. [Henry] duPont has a clear right to his seat in the United States Senate.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

[MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, Wilmington], from V[IRGINIA, MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], April 22, 1896.

Regrets not being well enough to come to Wilmington to visit Ann. Is pleased with the report of her condition received from Ruthy [Ruthanna] and [her husband] Dr. [J. H. Wilson]. Is glad she now has a congenial nurse. Dr. [Henry] Ridgely is well, and busy superintending his farm.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.4cm. x 19.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from WATSON R. SPERRY, Unadilla, N. Y., Jan. 2, 1897.

Acknowledges a Christmas gift. His sister is much better and the news from Julia [Sperry] is good. Mentions Betty [Sperry] and August [von Borosini].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from WATSON R. SPERRY, Unadilla, N. Y., Jan. 28, 1897.

Refers to views of Unadilla and photographs of [his daughter] Betty [Sperry] and of Mrs. duPont. Mentions [Betty's fiance] Herr August von Borosini. Has booked return passage via Antwerp.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from WATSON R. SPERRY, Unadilla, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1897.

Will send fourteen photographs of Unadilla, his boyhood home. His household goods arrived [in Germany] safely, though the linen was wet.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.6cm. x 19.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from WATSON R. SPERRY, Unadilla, N. Y., Feb. 7, 1897.

Was delighted to receive Mrs. duPont's photograph. Leaves shortly for Europe after a pleasant visit with his sister. The people of the town were much changed. Promises photographs of his wife, daughter and August [von Borosini].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from WATSON R. SPERRY, Dresden, Germany, March 15, 1897.

Arrived in Europe safely after a comfortable passage. Betty [Sperry] is to be married in April. His wife is much better. Hopes to visit Holland with her. Their goods did not ship so well as he had understood; almost "everything but the carpets" was broken.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.9cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from WATSON R. SPERRY, Dresden, Germany, July 1, 1897.

Since Betty's [Sperry] marriage [to August von Borosini] he has been searching for a new apartment. Acknowledges a gift forwarded to his daughter at Lausanne, [Switzerland]. Appreciates Mrs. duPont's photograph. Is satisfied with the rental terms for their Wilmington house. His sister is well and his wife much better. When he pictures Queen Victoria's Jubilee he always sees Ann in the Queen's role. Hopes to visit America in the fall.

A. L. S. 8 pp. 11cm. x 17.8cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from WATSON R. SPERRY, Dresden, Germany, Dec. 15, 1897.

Speaks of his other Wilmington correspondents Mr. . . . Hastings, Mr. . . . Henderson and General [James Harrison] Wilson. Regrets Mrs. duPont's recent illness. Agrees that "the only place for United States people is in the United States" but pleads special circumstances as his own excuse for living abroad. Tells of a program on polar exploration for the benefit of the German equivalent of an American Fresh Air Society. Outlines

the Society's activities. Betty's [von Borosini] marriage is happy. Comments on foreign marriages of American girls. Recalls the dining room of the duPont home and luncheons with "Miss Molly [Ridgely]". Describes Christmas preparations. Tells of his wife's reading circle.

A. L. S. 8 pp. 11cm. x 17.9cm.
10.5cm. x 15cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from WATSON R. SPERRY, Luttichaustasse, Dresden, Germany, March 17, [18]98.

Comments on an early and lovely spring. Alludes to a tea Mrs. duPont recently gave, and to alterations made in her house. Has successfully "evaded" membership in the "Anglo-American club here . . . the usual sort found in most foreign cities". Prefers the Cafe Konig or the Cafe Central where one can enjoy newspapers of every country in Europe while sipping beer or coffee and watching fellow patrons of many nationalities, though predominantly German. Mentions Julia [Sperry]; his daughter, son-in-law and prospective grandchild; Miss . . . Henderson; Julie Weir and her Austrian fiance Daniello . . .; Col. . . . Weir; the death of "poor Aleck"; and electrical treatments Mrs. duPont is trying. Discusses the *Maine* and criticisms of General Fitzhugh Lee. Is horrified at the behavior and views of certain Americans one meets in Europe.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], from WATSON R. SPERRY, Dresden, Germany, July 13, 1898.

Is immensely proud of the performance of the American Navy in the [Spanish-American] War, and certain that the Army's handicaps due to unpreparedness will soon be overcome. There is much adverse criticism in German papers, but keen interest in the conflict is shown everywhere. Regrets Captain . . . Harrington's retirement. Approves the action of Mr. . . . Vandergrift and Judge [EdwardG.] Bradford, [Jr.] regarding "that nest of bank plunderers at Dover". Has a granddaughter born in May. Describes the construction, appearance and operation of tile stoves. Hopes Mrs. duPont's health has improved.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.9cm.

CHAPTER III

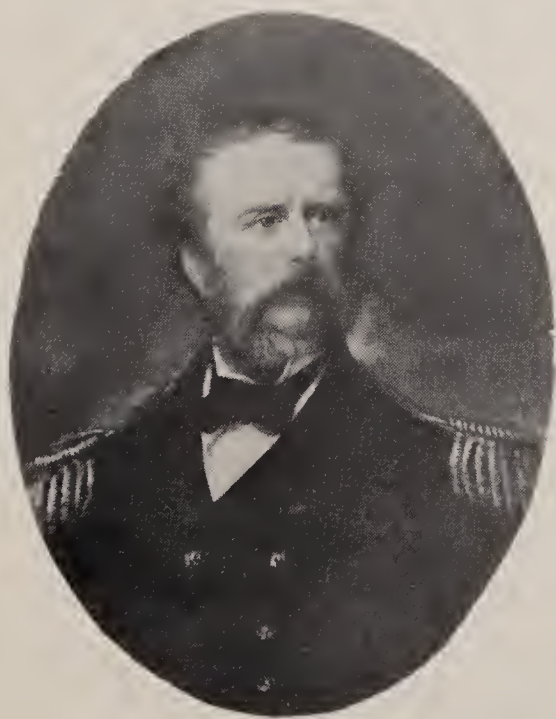
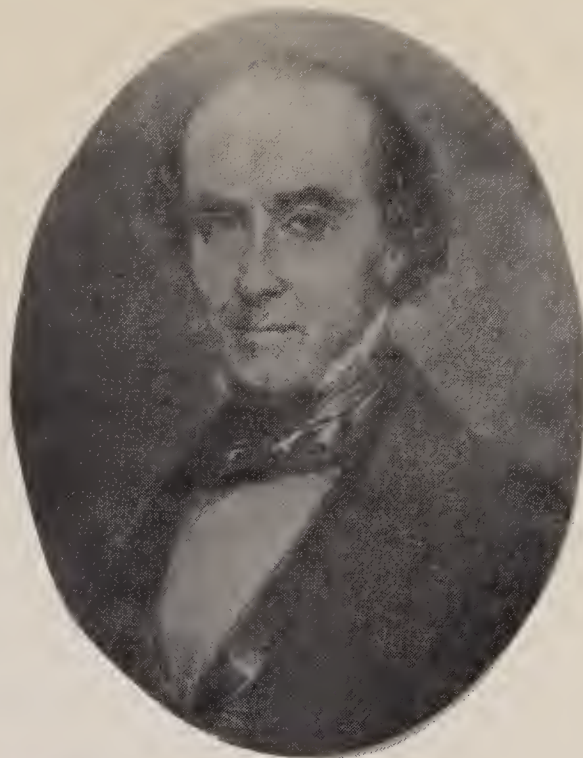
MR. AND MRS. EUGENE E. DUPONT

The individuals who appear in this *Calendar* include nineteen representatives[✓] of the fifth Delaware generation of the Ridgely family. All were the grandchildren of Henry M. Ridgely. Several of them are only casually mentioned in the letters of their relatives, others appear frequently either through the pens of their families or as correspondents of their parents, aunts or uncles, while four figure as independent correspondents. Only one of these four, Amelia Elizabeth duPont, chanced to be among those of the Ridgely cousins who married. She, with her husband Eugene duPont and their children, thus made up the only complete family of the fifth generation pictured in the Ridgely letters in the custody of the Public Archives Commission.

Eugene duPont was a grandson of Eleuthère Irénée duPont, founder of the powder company, and thus a second cousin of his future wife, a granddaughter of Victor duPont. His father, Alexis Irénée duPont, bred to the explosives business, was superintendent of the production line as well as a partner in the company throughout the son's childhood. Eugene duPont himself was born November 16, 1840, the second of his parents' eight children, and the eldest son. At fifteen he was an honor student at the Academy of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Philadelphia; later, he attended the University of Pennsylvania. Before the youth was quite seventeen his father was fatally injured in an explosion at the plant. That fact, however, did not interrupt the young man's education.

After graduation, and on the eve of the Civil War, Eugene duPont entered the employ of the powder company as an assistant in the laboratory. In time he succeeded an uncle as chief chemist. Later he became general manager of the plant. In 1889, upon the death of another uncle, Henry duPont, who had been the senior partner and executive head of the company, he became head of the firm. Eugene duPont followed a predecessor who had kept the business abreast of new scientific developments and strengthened its financial position in a fiercely com-

[✓]There are additional Ridgely descendants through William Morris, a son of Henry M. Ridgely's sister Mary. The Mary (Ridgely) Morris line as represented in the correspondence ends, however, with her children.



duPONT FAMILY GROUP

ANN (RIDGELY) duPONT

CHARLES I. duPONT

HENRY R. duPONT

ADMIRAL S. F. duPONT

SOPHIE (duPONT) duPONT

petitive industry. Since Henry duPont, in his thirty-nine years tenure, had exercised sole responsibility, had delegated little authority even in routine matters and had resisted change in all fields other than production and finance, he had nevertheless left a structure that was in many ways rigid and clumsy. It became Eugene duPont's task to make the organization more responsive to late nineteenth century conditions. Under his leadership new procedures and modern equipment were adopted. Late in 1899, the family partnership which had previously owned the business was replaced by a corporation with virtually no change in actual personnel. Eugene duPont became president of the new organization. On January 2, 1902, he died of pneumonia after a brief illness. His sudden death at sixty-two found the company without an obvious successor to his responsibilities, so sale to a competitor was seriously considered. Interfamily negotiation nevertheless led to purchase by Alfred I., Pierre and T. Coleman duPont, cousins, then relatively young men, under whom E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company continued into its modern phase.

It is not, however, as a business man that Eugene duPont appears in the Ridgely correspondence, but as husband, son-in-law and father. He was married to Amie duPont, on July 5, 1866. Since their fathers were cousins, friends and neighbors, the couple had known each other well from babyhood. The marriage reflected in the letters appears to have been a most congenial one, deepened by mutual affection for their five children.

Amelia Elizabeth duPont, always known in her family as Amie, was born to Charles I. duPont and his second wife, Ann (Ridgely) on February 26, 1842, at "Louviers", the family home on the Brandywine. She was her mother's first child, and her father's fourth. The household in which she grew up included her beloved half-sister, Mary, and her half-brothers Victor and Charles I. duPont, Jr., all in their teens when she was born, as well as her brother Henry, who was nearly seven years her junior. The correspondence pictures a lively, precocious little girl, secure in the affection of a large family, and raised with greater simplicity and knowledge of practical homemaking than was common in well-to-do families of the period. Much of her early education was received through instruction at home from

various members of the family. When she was in her early teens, her mother referred to a tutor expected to give lessons in French to Amie and her cousins. When she was fifteen, the Misses Grimshaw were mentioned in context to suggest she may have been a student at their school in Wilmington; about two years later she wrote in a homesick vein from a boarding school in Philadelphia.

After her marriage her life appears to have been that of a matron busy with the supervision of home and family, and with the social activities of her circle. There is evidence of travel from time to time. Like most of her family, Amie duPont as child, schoolgirl and woman was fond of pets and of gardening. Her brother, writing from England when she was a young wife, singled out the beautiful landscaping of an estate he visited as the feature that would have most interested her.

Eugene and Amie duPont were the parents of six children, Anne, Alexis, Eugene, Amy and Julia, who lived to maturity, and Mary, who died an infant. The extant correspondence provides brief glimpses of their life as a family, and of the education of the eldest son and daughter. The donors of a major portion of the Ridgely Collection were the members of this group who were living in 1940: Mrs. William Peyton, formerly Anne duPont; Mrs. James N. Andrews, formerly Julia duPont; Mr. Eugene duPont, Jr.; and Miss Amy duPont.

With two exceptions, the letters abstracted in the present chapter passed between close relatives. Of the twenty-three items included, Mrs. duPont received four and wrote five; her husband received ten and wrote four; their daughter Anne received one and wrote four; and their son Alexis received seven and wrote one. Individuals who wrote or received one or two letters each were Sophie duPont, widow of Admiral S. F. duPont; Henry A. duPont, a West Point cadet at the time, destined to a military, business and political career; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene duPont's daughter Amy; Mr. Bernard Peyton, father of the duPont's son-in-law William Peyton; and Henry Ridgely, son of Edward, who was Mrs. duPont's cousin and a distinguished lawyer. The geographic range of this portion of the correspondence includes communities in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and California, in addition to several in Delaware.

The Ridgely Collection contains no personal papers of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene duPont or their sons and daughters. Photographs of all the members of the Eugene duPont family are reproduced in *duPont de Nemours 1800-1900*, published by W. W. Laird, Jr., in Wilmington in 1937.

ABSTRACTS

MISS AMELIA ELIZABETH [AMY] DUPONT, "Louviers", [near Wilmington], from [MRS. S. F.] SOPHIE DUPONT, [Wilmington], Feb. 26, 1850.

A greeting on her eighth birthday from her aunt.

A. L. S. 1 p. 11cm. x 18cm.

EUGENE DUPONT, #34 S. Front St., Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] A. DUPONT, West Point, N. Y. Feb. 26, 1859.

Was pleased with "the catalogue" from their [L O K] Chapter at the University [of Pennsylvania]. Inquires if any other Delawareans are enrolled. Is extremely busy with his studies. Is looking forward to being a "first class-man" in the summer. Mentions the sudden death of Louisa Wales and "the Fry divorce case".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.5cm.

EUGENE DUPONT, 37 S. Front St., Philadelphia, from J[O-ANNA, MRS. ALEXIS I.] D[U]P[ONT], "Hagley", Del., Nov. 15, 1859.

Sends greetings to her son on his nineteenth birthday, with her prayer for his welfare and the hope that he will pattern his life on his deceased father's example and teaching. Has spent the day "painting on Mr. . . . Parker's picture".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.7cm. x 19.3cm.

EUGENE DUPONT, 37 S. Front St., Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] A. DUPONT, West Point, N. Y., Nov. 27, 1859.

Disapproves granting charters for L O K Chapters "to colleges in the more northern states" particularly New England, "where there are so many abolitionists and fanatics of every description". Comments angrily on [John Brown's raid at] Harper's Ferry and the "black republicans", attitude toward it. Is glad "old [Dr. Henry] Vethake" has resigned as Provost at the University of Pennsylvania. Life at West Point becomes "less irksome the longer you stay".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 14.5cm. x 18cm.

AMY [DUPONT, MRS. EUGENE, near Wilmington] from MARIE . . ., New York [post 1866].

Acknowledges a wedding gift. Regrets that Amy cannot attend the ceremony.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13cm. x 20.5cm.

MISS ANN R. DUPONT, [no address], from SOPHIE [MRS. S. F. DUPONT, near Wilmington, c. 1875].

Sympathizes with "dear little Annie" in her painful illness and sends best wishes for her prompt recovery.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 11cm. x 17.4cm.

EUGENE DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], from [MISS] ANNE [DUPONT, near Wilmington, c. 1876].

Shows her father her ability to write in French, telling him of her lessons in the language with Aunt Sophie [Mrs. S. F. duPont], and about her Aunt's pets.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12cm. x 19.7cm.

[EUGENE DUPONT, n. p.], from ANNIE [MISS ANNE DUPONT], "Louviers", [Del.], Nov. 16, 1876.

Wishes her father a happy birthday and promises to "try to be a comfort to you all your life".

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.8cm. x 20cm.

ALEXIS I. DUPONT, [Cheltonham Academy, Shoemaker-town, Penna.], from EUGENE DUPONT, [near Wilmington], Oct. 15, 1882.

A letter from a father to his son in the second form in which he tells of events at home and gives advice.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

[MRS. EUGENE DUPONT, Wilmington, from MISS ANNE DUPONT], Farmington, [Conn.], Dec. 13, 1882.

Explains the arrangements for her return home at Christmas. Is eager to come, and delighted that her Mother has saved some of the shopping for them to do together. Worries over having spent the "enormous amount" of ten dollars "in less than three months", but found certain contributions virtually obligatory and her trips to Hartford [Connecticut] expensive.

A. L. S. 8 pp. 12.5cm. x 20vm.

ALEXIS I. DUPONT, Cheltonham Academy, Shoemaker-town, Penna., from EUGENE DUPONT, Wilmington, April 29, 1883.

Inquires about his son's health upon returning to school and gives him bits of family news including the curtain that caught fire from the candle Amy was carrying. Tells how it was extinguished and cautions that Mrs. duPont does not know of it as it would worry her during her illness.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[ALEXIS I. DUPONT, Cheltonham Academy, Shoemaker-town, Penna.], from EUGENE DUPONT, Wilmington, May 6, 1883.

Congratulates his son on his report card. Tells of Mrs. duPont's improved health. Describes other events at home and says they expect him home in a few weeks.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13.5cm. x 16cm.

[MRS. EUGENE DUPONT, Wilmington], from [MISS ANN R. DUPONT], Farmington, [Conn.], Feb. 17, [18]84.

Worries about her mother's sore foot. Tells of tableaux presented at a school entertainment, valentines received, plans for a short vacation at Washington's birthday, and a suggestion that her class drop Latin for one term between Caesar and Vergil. Mentions [her brother] Lex [Alexis I. duPont], Julia and Willie Crofton, Mattie Dimmick and Nan Warner.

A. L. [S. implied] 8 pp. 13.6cm. x 21cm.

[ALEXIS I. DUPONT, Cheltonham Academy, Shoemaker-town, Penna.], from EUGENE DUPONT, Wilmington, Oct. 26, 1884.

Is pleased that his son attended a dog show and says that brother "Gene" [duPont] may get a black and tan puppy to replace "Frisk". Says Mrs. [Eugene] duPont has returned from attending Grandma [Mrs. Charles I. duPont] who is a great deal better.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13.5cm. x 21cm.

[ALEXIS I. DUPONT, Cheltonham Academy, Shoemaker-town, Penna.], from [MRS. EUGENE DUPONT, near Wilmington], Nov. 11, 1884.

Tells her son about the new puppy and other events in the household. Says that Grandma [Mrs. Charles I. duPont] is better and is able to come down in the library.

A. L. U. [incomplete] 4 pp. 13.5cm. x 21cm.

[ALEXIS I. DUPONT, Cheltonham Academy, Shoemaker-town, Penna.], from [MRS. EUGENE DUPONT, near Wilmington], Jan. 18, 1885.

Says Uncle Lex is visiting with them and that he is trying to get a house in Philadelphia. They went to the Wilmington Theatre and saw a funny show called "The Private Secretary". Tells much family news and that the ladies of the Brandywine meet every Friday afternoon from 3-5 at Aunt Louisa's [duPont] to read.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[EUGENE DUPONT, n. p.], from [MISS] AMY [DUPONT, near Wilmington], Nov. 16, 1885.

Greets her father on his birthday.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.6cm. x 20.4cm.

EUGENE [DUPONT, n. p.], from SOPHIE [MRS. SAMUEL F. DUPONT, near Wilmington], Nov. 16, 1885.

Sends birthday greetings, with a book she hopes will "interest a scientific man like you".

A. L. S. 1 p. 12cm. x 19cm.

[ALEXIS I. DUPONT, Cheltonham Academy, Shoemaker-town, Penna.], from [MRS. EUGENE DUPONT, near Wilmington], April 19, 1886.

Describes the preparations being made for the return of her son and daughter Annie, for the Easter Holidays. Mr. duPont has gone to New York to bring Annie home this evening. Grandma, [Mrs. Charles I. duPont] and Aunt Mollie [Ridgely] are coming tomorrow to stay for Annie's nineteenth birthday. Aunt Mary's [duPont] sixtieth birthday was today. Tells of an agreeable meeting with a Mrs. . . . Bates whose son, Theodore, will enter Harvard a year after Alexis [duPont] does.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 11.5cm. x 17.5cm.

EUGENE DUPONT, [Wilmington], from ALEXIS I. DUPONT, Santa Cruz, [Calif.], Feb. 10, [18]98.

Has enjoyed his trip. Explains to his father certain details of the powder manufacturing methods in use in the plant under William Peyton's supervision, and of the negotiation of the most recent Army contract.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 11.4cm. x 17.7cm.

[EUGENE DUPONT, n. p.], from [MRS. EUGENE DUPONT], "The Homestead", Hot Springs, Va., Sept. 30, [18]99.

Reports a slow recovery from her illness but hopes for more rapid improvement soon. Gives details of her treatment. Appreciates [their daughter] Julia's [duPont] unselfish care of her.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

EUGENE DUPONT, Esq., Wilmington, from BERNARD PEYTON, Santa Cruz, Calif., Oct. 11, 1899.

Approves William Peyton's course in resigning from the California Powder Works, believing his research in and practical development of a new field of explosives has not received due recognition.

[Attached is a carbon of a letter Oct. 5, 1899, to Mr. Peyton from Eugene duPont, regretting the resignation of Mr. duPont's son-in-law William Peyton and expressing the hope he will reconsider his decision.]

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 27cm.

HENRY, RIDGELY, JR., Dover, from AMY E. [MRS. EUGENE] DUPONT, Wilmington, Oct. 28, 1902.

Sends a deed. Expresses her pride in her cousin's "ability and talents" and her pleasure that he now owns the Ridgely family home in Dover. Will come down before leaving for an intended trip to Europe to have him draw up her will. Mentions Mabel [Mrs. Henry Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.3cm. x 17cm.

CHAPTER IV

HENRY RIDGELY duPONT

1848 - 1893

The youngest child of Charles I. duPont, and the only son of his second wife, Ann (Ridgely), is also among the members of the fifth Delaware generation of the Ridgely family directly represented in the preserved correspondence. Although he appears primarily as a member of his parents' household and their correspondent, a small sampling of his other letters is extant.

Henry R. duPont was born November 19, 1848 at "Louviers". There he spent his childhood, in a community composed largely of his relatives and the employees of his father's textile mill and his cousins' powder works. His early education was through family instruction and irregular attendance at the somewhat distant district school. At ten he was sent to T. Clarkson Taylor's private school in Wilmington, and the following year he became a boarder at Delaware Military Academy, then operated by Theodore Hyatt. Later he was at school in West Haverford, Pennsylvania; in his middle teens he was enrolled at the Classical and Commercial High School, a private academy, in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. The correspondence is silent about his college years, as well as about his legal apprenticeship. Throughout his adult life he was an attorney in Wilmington. His letters suggest a strong interest in history, art, literature and travel; a great fondness for pets, especially cats; and dislike of the formality so common in social life of the later nineteenth century. Henry R. duPont remained single. He died April 29, 1893, after more than a year of ill health.

His correspondence, as preserved in the Ridgely Collection, comprises the exchange with his father and mother abstracted in a preceding chapter of this *Calendar*, and nine letters dating from the two final years of his life. Six of these are of a personal nature. The documents in the custody of the Public Archives Commission include no personal papers of Henry R. duPont. A photograph of him is included in *duPont de Nemours 1800-1900*, published by W. W. Laird, Jr., at Wilmington in 1937.

ABSTRACTS

[HENRY R. duPONT, Wilmington], from JOHN E. SPENCER, Philadelphia, Feb. 2, 1869.

A letter of condolence on the death of his father [Charles I. duPont].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.6cm. x 19.7cm.

HENRI [HENRY R.] duPONT, [Wilmington], from HENRI MORAND, 131 Dale St., Rosebury, Boston, Mass., April 29, 1891.

Apologizes for failure to reply more promptly to a letter. Was pleased to have news again of the duPonts. Recalls an explosion on the Brandywine "which sent [a] piano to the other end of the parlor". His own family includes Mrs. Morand, sons Prosper, Edouard, and Henri [Morand] Jr., and a daughter Orphise Morand. Is assistant director of French in the Boston high schools. Invites Mrs. Eugene duPont's son, now at Harvard, to visit at his home.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.7cm.

HARRY [HENRY R. duPONT, Wilmington], from WILLARD SAULSBURY, JR., 843 Market St., Wilmington, June 2, 1891.

Has accepted the position with the U[nited] S[tates] Court that Harry has resigned on account of illness, but wishes him to understand "I am only keeping the place warm for you until you are able to be out". Wishes him a quick recovery.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 26.4cm.

J. H. DANBY, [no address], from HENRY R. duPONT, 6 W. 9th St., Wilmington, Oct. 23, 1891.

Asks "a New York draft . . . as Trustee of . . .".

A. Df. U. [incomplete] 1 p. 14.7cm. x 22.7cm.

HARRY [HENRY R. duPONT, Wilmington], from [MRS.] ELIZABETH BALLISTER BATES, 1320 W. 14th St., [Wilmington], Dec. 31, [18]91.

Thanks Harry for a "token of New Years' interest" and hopes his being able to send greetings to his friends indicates that he is much better. George [Bates] received as much benefit from a voyage last summer as from the one "so long ago with you and Dan[iel Bates]".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11cm. x 17cm.

HARRY [HENRY R. DUPONT, Wilmington], from JIM [ELLIOTT], Easton, Md., Nov. 20, 1892.

Did not know of Harry's illness until after his last visit to Wilmington. Regrets not seeing him. Implies he is suffering from extreme weakness after "bilious fever". Is busy with some mechanical drawing. Alludes to the murder of Katie Dugan near his father's home. Is pleased with the election results. Had long been stressing "the tariff issue and force bill". Mentions Spence . . ., in California. Crops were poor last year on the [Delmarva] Peninsula and prices unsatisfactory.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 14.5cm. x 22.3cm.

HENRY R. DUPONT, [Wilmington], from GEO[RGE] H. BATES, Wilmington, Dec. 12, 1892.

Appreciated Harry's greeting on "our" birthday. Is anxious about his continued ill health. Would appreciate word by [servant] Isaac . . . whenever he is well enough to receive callers.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.3cm.

HENRY R. DUPONT, Esq., [Wilmington], from CHA[RLES] B. LORE, Wilmington, March 24, 1893.

Appreciates his endorsement and his letter of congratulation.

A. L. S. 1 p. 24cm. x 26.7cm.

HENRY R. DUPONT, Wilmington, from JA[ME]S ELLIOTT, Mt. Vernon Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J., April 13, 1893.

Hopes Harry is recovering. Mentions Mr. and Mrs. Levi Bird and Rob[er]t Graves, and a certain letter.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 14.6cm. x 22.7cm.

HOWARD PYLE, [Wilmington], from [HENRY R. DUPONT], Wilmington, [ante April 29, 1893].

Apologizes for his lack of clarity in a previous note. Had intended offering Mr. Pyle data for an article about Miss [Mary] Vining if he was interested in it for his series in *Harpers Magazine*, but supposes he will be too busy to use it. The collection consists of a manuscript compiled by Mrs. [Emily E.] Banning (a granddaughter of C. A. Rodney), and additions of his own from old family letters. Has a small painting of [Mary] Vining and "full length portraits of her father and stepmother, said to have been painted by Stuart". Speaks of his own antiquarian interests and of Miss Vining's relationship "to his father" [sic.]. Mrs. Banning does not wish her name used, and neither of them wants to incur expense.

A. Df. U. 2 pp. 14.5cm. x 22.6cm.



JOHNSON-RIDGELY FAMILY GROUP

WILLIAMINA (RIDGELY) JOHNSON

ALEXANDER JOHNSON

ANNE DUPONT JOHNSON

EDWARD RIDGELY

DR. HENRY RIDGELY

CHAPTER V

ANNE duP. JOHNSON AND NICHOLAS R. JOHNSON

1856 - 1888

1852 - 1928

A striking characteristic of the Ridgely Collection is the material it offers for an understanding of the activities and viewpoints of young people, and their development from childhood into maturity. This is as true of several of Henry M. Ridgely's grandchildren and a few of his great-grandchildren, as it was of his children, his own generation, and his father. For the most part the children and young adults of the later nineteenth century are represented in very brief series, or in the correspondence of Henry M. Ridgely's sons and daughters, which have been abstracted in preceeding chapters of this *Calendar*.

Two members of the fifth Delaware generation of the family have, however, left a substantial group of letters. Anne duPont Johnson and her brother Nicholas Ridgely Johnson not only corresponded frequently with their aunt, Ann (Ridgely) duPont, but with each other and other relatives. Their correspondence with others than Mrs. duPont and their father makes up the present chapter.

Nicholas Ridgely Johnson was born November 13, 1852, at his parents' home near Farmington, in lower Kent County, Delaware. He was the son of Alexander Johnson by his first wife, Williamina, the youngest daughter of Henry M. Ridgely. His eldest brother, Henry Ridgely Johnson, was nearly six years his senior; an elder sister, Elizabeth, had died before his birth; and another brother, James, not quite two years older than he, died when Nicholas was five. Anne, known in the family as Annie, was four years younger than he. His mother died at the birth of a stillborn infant when her living children were two and a half, six and a half and eleven years of age. For nearly nine years Alexander Johnson remained a widower, maintaining his home with the help of housekeepers. Since Henry, like most country lads of the period who were preparing for professional study, was sent away to school at an early age, the two younger Johnson children relied much upon each other for understanding companionship. In 1868, Mr. Johnson married Elizabeth Dorsey, by whom he had one additional child, Elizabeth Dorsey Johnson, later Mrs. J. Pilling Wright.

Nicholas' early schooling appears to have been in his home community, but by the time he was twelve, his father was preparing to send him elsewhere. A school in Dover, which his cousin Daniel Ridgely was attending, was at first considered. In September, 1865, however, the lad joined his brother Henry at Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland, where he remained until his graduation in 1873. The letters give numerous glimpses of his life there.

After college, he returned to the family home at "Coon Den". Farming thereafter remained his principal occupation, although other interests claimed his attention from time to time. He was a director of the Delaware Railroad Company. In 1881, he dabbled briefly in "the wool business", and in 1882 he and a partner were identified as "Fruit Evaporators" at Wyoming, Delaware, a village between his home and Dover. Like most of his relatives he took part in public affairs. He was a Colonel on the staff of John W. Hall, Governor of Delaware from 1879 to 1883. In 1884 he was elected to the General Assembly as a member of the House of Representatives. An undated letter of the early 1890's records his disappointment when he failed to secure the nomination for State Treasurer. His correspondence, especially that with Ann (Ridgely) duPont, gives evidence of his activity in various business and political projects during his earlier manhood, but no record has been found of his holding offices other than those already mentioned.

Nicholas Johnson was one of the descendants of Sarah (Banning) Ridgely who inherited her defective vision. When he was only twenty-six, an invitation to visit his aunt was accompanied with a promise to read to him every evening during his stay. The handicap increased progressively, and ended in blindness in his later years.

Letters written to Nicholas Johnson at various periods of his life suggest a current romantic attachment. None of the young women who from time to time attracted him are fully identified. Neither he, his sister Annie, nor his brother Henry, a distinguished lawyer, ever married.

He died March 10, 1928 after a tedious illness, leaving his much younger half-sister as his only survivor in his immediate family. Although his actual death occurred at Harrington,

Delaware, his home was on his farm near Farmington. He was buried at Christ Church, Dover.

Anne duPont Johnson, the youngest of her parents' living children, was born December 29, 1856. Despite her mother's death in June, 1859, she was brought up on the farmstead, "Coon Den", where she was cared for by the housekeepers, Mrs. Lines and her successors, until her father's remarriage when the little girl was eleven. Alexander Johnson's home appears to have offered a happy existence for his children, with the routine of the farm, pets, games, rambles in the fields and woodlands, and apparently a rather wide circle of friends to provide constant interests. There was clearly affection among all the members of the household, but an especial friendship existed between Nicholas and Annie from her earliest childhood until her death.

During her childhood and early girlhood she attended subscription schools raised in the neighborhood, and the district public school. Since she spent rather extended periods with Dr. Henry Ridgely's family in Dover and with the duPonts in Wilmington, it is possible that some of the visits were long enough to include school attendance in those towns. The first actual evidence of her enrollment at a distance from home appears in October, 1872, when she wrote from Wesleyan Female College in Wilmington. There she spent three busy, happy years as a member of a class the faculty considered outstanding. Discipline was strict and the course of study demanding, but the girls quite obviously had a great deal of fun both among themselves and with the young gentlemen who were permitted as visitors on suitable occasions. Annie Johnson was fifteen when she entered Wesleyan, and not yet nineteen when she was graduated in 1875.

For the first few years after college, her life was that of a young gentlewoman of comfortable means. When she was at "Coon Den" she accepted a share in the work its management entailed. She was a skilled needlewoman, adept both at dress-making and the decorative work then so much in style. Her correspondence shows that she continued to spend much time in visits with relatives and friends. In February, 1881, when she was just past twenty-four, the letters allude to a severe illness. From that time onward, it is evident that her health was no longer robust. The next seven years brought a succession of

illnesses, several of them alarming, though each was followed by a partial recovery. They appear to have been principally respiratory ailments, but one was a painful spinal condition which forced her to wear a brace nearly to the end of her life. Her vision, like her brother's, was defective enough from her early twenties to worry her family. In the spring of 1888, after an interlude of apparently improving health, she suffered an attack of pleurisy, followed by symptoms which suggest tuberculosis. On July 5, 1888 she died at "Coon Den", at the age of thirty-one. She is buried in Christ Churchyard, Dover.

This present chapter is made up almost completely of letters between related individuals, with Annie Johnson as its more prominent figure. She wrote twenty-four of the letters, all of them to her brother Nicholas. She received eighty-one, of which Nicholas wrote sixteen. Other family correspondents were her father, her stepmother, her brother Henry and her sister Bessie, each represented only by one or a very few items; her "Aunt Jennie", the wife of Dr. Henry Ridgely, who wrote thirty-one of the letters in the group; her cousins Mary Ridgely, the daughter of Rev. Nicholas Ridgely; Annie duPont, the daughter of Ann (Ridgely) duPont; and Ruthanna (Ridgely) Harrington, the daughter of Dr. Henry Ridgely. Mary duPont, Ann (Ridgely) duPont's stepdaughter, wrote several letters in the group, and so also did Sophie duPont, the wife of Samuel Francis duPont. Nicholas Ridgely received one letter from his cousin Daniel, the son of Eugene Ridgely, and three from Amie duPont. The entire group contains but two items to or from friends outside the family circle. This portion of the *Calendar* is also unique for its small proportion of letters to or from those at a considerable distance. A few were addressed to Nicholas during his schooldays at Chestertown, Maryland, and a few others were written or received by Annie while she was in Thomasville, Georgia; virtually all the others passed between points in Delaware.

There are no personal papers of Nicholas or Annie Johnson in the collection owned by the Public Archives Commission. There are, however, portraits of both in a collection of family pictures recently presented to the Commission by their sister, Mrs. John Pilling Wright, of Newark, Delaware.

ABSTRACTS

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, [Farmington, Del.], from JENNEY [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, Del., c. 1860].

Invites her little niece to visit her, promising her a pleasant time and excellent care. Explains that the doll is from Switzerland. Refers to the members of the Johnson household, cousin Harry Ridgely, Ruthanna [Ridgely], and to her own affection for Annie's [deceased] mother ["Willy" Johnson].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 10cm. x15.5cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, fall c. 1860].

Describes a fair [at Dover], telling of prize vegetables, race horses, a cripple's little dog-drawn cart, and the candy, nuts, pies, fruit and lemonade on sale to the "great crowd". Mentions Mr. [Alexander] Johnson, Nicky [Johnson], her own long-planned visit to Farmington, "a pretty little likeness" of Annie herself, [servants] Katy and Sallie . . ., her own mother and daughter, and members of the Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 8 pp. 9cm. x 14.8cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, December, c. 1860].

Writes affectionately, referring to Christmas gifts and extending an invitation to visit Dover soon. Alludes to the current style of high necks and long sleeves for little girls. Asks if "Old Chris . . . ever arranges a table for thee".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 9.7cm. x 15.3cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MISS] MOLLY RIDGELY, [Wilmington], June 23, 1861.

Welcomes her little cousin whom she is eager to see.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 9.5cm. x 14.8cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from V.[IRGINIA, MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, Del. c. August 1861].

Regretfully asks her niece to postpone a visit, since she has no maid, and must prepare Ruthanna [Ridgely] for boarding school in Bethlehem, [Pennsylvania]. Aunt Lizzy [Mrs. Edward Ridgely] has moved into her new house. Promises Annie occasional visits from "the candy man" who has not "gone to the war" despite the high price and scarcity of sugar.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.7cm. x 17.6cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, c. September 1861].

Was entertaining "poor Aunt Mary Hillyard" whose beloved only daughter [Mary K. Hillyard] recently died, when Annie passed through Dover on the train. Hopes she can soon pay a visit. Ruthanna [Ridgely] is attending school. Tells of the pets and of daily life at "Eden Hill". Mentions Uncle Gene and Aunt Mary Ann [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 10cm. x 15cm.

MISS ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], Dover, [c. October 28, 1861].

A package has been delayed because she and Uncle Henry [Ridgely] have been sick. Mentions other members of the Ridgely family. William Emerson died very suddenly yesterday.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 9.7cm. x 14.6cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, fall c. 1861].

Hopes Annie did not suffer from her cold drive home. Is making her some dresses. Sends a canary bought in Philadelphia, though she does not usually approve of live pets for small children. Refers to some toys and to a sketch Uncle Henry [Ridgely] has drawn. Conferred with the managers at the Foster Home while in the city.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 10cm. x 18cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MISS] RUTHANNA [RIDGELY, n. p., spring, c. 1862].

Writes from an unidentified boarding school in a homesick mood, inquiring about family, friends, and pets, and looking forward to her return. Sends regards to a long list of relatives. Hopes her little cousin soon makes another long visit to Dover.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 10cm. x 15.5cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, [Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, c. January 1863].

Sends New Years greetings to the Johnson family, and, as a gift for Annie, "two candy watches". Remarks that "thy dear old aunt Ruth" [Mrs. Jonathan Jenkins] will soon begin her eightieth year.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 9.7cm. x 15.4cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MISS] MOLLIE RIDGELY, "Louviers", [Del.], Oct. 15, 1863.

Since she went home the whole family at "Louviers" misses Annie at every turn. Tells of gathering the chestnuts from under a heavily loaded tree.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 10.7cm. x 16.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, fall c. 1864].

Finds it difficult to accustom herself to living in Dover instead of on the farm ["Eden Hill"]. Misses her pets though she often goes back to see them. Plans several trips. Is eager to have Ruthanna [Ridgely] home at Christmas. Mentions "Aunt Ruth" [Mrs. Jonathan Jenkins], Mrs. . . . Lines, Aunt Mary Ann [Ridgely], and Uncle [Henry Ridgely]. Annie's writing pleases her.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, December c. 1864].

Finds boarding is in many ways convenient, though in others trying. Enjoys being free for occasional trips with her husband. Her cats welcome her eagerly when she visits the farm. Mr. . . . Cowgill will soon open "his supply of Christmas toys". Alludes to [a recent explosion which threatened "Louviers"].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, c. 1865].

Compliments her upon her penmanship. Certain dresses are not yet finished. Ruthanna [Ridgely] attended "the famous fair" at Albany, [New York]. Speaks of other members of the family, and of Mrs. Nathaniel Smithers and [seamstress] Mrs. Adams.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 10cm. x 15cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], "Eden Hill", [Del. ante 1865].

Invites her for Christmas. Tells of a recent trip to Philadelphia, and of several gifts she purchased there. Mentions Harry and Nicky [Johnson], Dan[iel] Ridgely, and the entire Johnson household.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.6cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, spring, ante 1865].

Invites her to Dover for "the show", assuring her that time missed from study can be made up. Mentions [Henry and Ruthanna Ridgely], Uncle Ned's [Ridgely] family, Aunt Ann [duPont] and Harry Ridgely who is enjoying his work "in Lewis's store". Her eggs and butter through the winter and spring brought enough to buy a barrel of sugar, now very expensive.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.4cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, winter, ante 1865].

Alludes to Annie's recent visit. Tells of the activities of the family, [servants] and the pets "Ben", "Nep" and "Rock". Refers to her own daily walks, "in long gum boots" after the recent heavy snow. Mentions Harry [Ridgely], Mrs. . . . Bird, Nicky [Johnson], [Alexander Johnson], and Mrs. . . . Lines. Tells of a concert in Dover.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 10cm. x 16cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], c. 1865.

Chats about household affairs, her cherished family of cats, the weather, Annie's improving penmanship, Sally . . . , Mrs. . . . Adams and Minty Gives news of her nephew Harry Ridgely.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], Camden, [Del., March 5, c. 1865].

Tells of a visit to Camden, a turkey and mince pie dinner, and Ruthanna's [Ridgely] valentines. Asks about Mrs. . . . Lines' failing health, and when Nicky [Johnson] will be sent to school in Dover where Dan[iel Ridgely] is eagerly awaiting him. Fears [cats] "Bob & Ben" are lost.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 13cm. x 20.3cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington], from [ALEXANDER JOHNSON], Farmington, [Del.], Aug. 31, 1865.

Cannot let his daughter stay in Wilmington until Christmas. Nick [Johnson] will enter [Washington College] with his brother Harry in September. Tells of a two-day fishing excursion

to [Delaware] Bay. Nick is a "perfect little waterdog". Mentions Mrs. . . . Lines, Aunt Ann [duPont] and Ruthanna [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 13cm. x 20.6cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Wilmington], from [ALEXANDER JOHNSON], Farmington, [Del.], Sept. 14, 1865.

Sends his daughter \$10.00 for shoes and other necessities. Mentions Harry and Nick [Johnson] and Mrs. . . . Lines, who have all been ill, and Mrs. . . . Primrose, the Johnson's new housekeeper.

A. L. S. 1 p. 13cm. x 20cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MISS] MOLLIE [RIDGELY, Wilmington], Nov. 13, [c. 1865].

Wishes Annie were at "Louviers" to help entertain some young guests. Reminisces about her last visit there, and refers to the various members of the duPont and Johnson families.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.6cm. x 17cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington], from A[LEXANDER] JOHNSON, Farmington, [Del.], Nov. 16, 1865.

Promises to come for his daughter as soon as he finishes planting peach trees. Thinks her long visit has saved her "from an attack of bilious" which this fall has continued into cool weather. Mrs. . . . Lines died October 3. Harry and Nick [Johnson] are both at Chestertown [Maryland]. Compliments Annie on her penmanship. "I suppose you have some one to write and you copy for I think the composition a little above your gun". Apples are hard to keep this season.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.4cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MISS] MOLLIE [RIDGELY], "Louviers", [Del.], Dec. 7, [c. 1865].

Invites Annie to spend Christmas. Sends a photograph of Aunt Sophie [duPont] and promises one of Aunt Ann [duPont]. Mentions [Charles I. duPont], Amy [duPont], and Mr. . . . Newbold's son.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.4cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, [Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, c. February 1866].

Regrets that Annie did not stay for the ball and Lucy's . . . visit. Knows she would have enjoyed the frozen custard and ice cream with which the freezer has been kept filled, and the

chicken salad, calf's-foot jelly, fresh pound cakes, oysters and fresh sausage now on hand. Believes Aunt Lizzie's [Mrs. Edward Ridgely] daughter [Sarah Ridgely] will be named "Annie or Ann". Alludes to an "elegant" cat named Greeley, her favorite among several, to the children's skating, and an excellently written letter from Annie herself.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

NICH[OLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from DAN-
[IEL RIDGELY], Dover, March 8, 1866.

Tells his cousin that Harry Ridgely has sailed for California. Writes of his own garden, the possibility of his going to school in Dover "this summer", and the two balls in Dover the past winter, at which there "were plenty of girls, lots of dancing and any quantity of good things to eat". Mentions "Mr. Natty".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 11.5cm. x 17.7cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from
"JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY], Dover, [March or
May 1866].

Writes of household affairs, the Ridgely and Johnson families, and her pets. Isaac Dolby of Camden died suddenly last week. Refers to Aunt Mary Ann [Mrs. Eugene Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from
N[ICHOLAS] R. JOHNSON, Washington College, [Chester-
town, Md.], July 1, [c. 1866].

The college plays *Golden Farmer*, *Kiss in The Park*, *Swiss Cottage*, and *State Secrets* were successful. Thinks his own performance was good. *Paul Pry* and the farce *His Last Legs* will make up the next program. Has a comic part in one of them. Gives news of Mr. . . . Sutton, Mrs. . . . Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. . . . Lord, Chip Davis and Joe Bryan. Fears his sister might "catch the cholera" if she went to the school recently suggested for her

A. L. S. 2 pp. 13cm. x 20.3cm.

NICKY [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from
[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., c. Aug. 1866].

Gives her brother the news of friends and family, inquires about his part in a school play, and tells of attending school herself. Having their house repainted prevented their father [Alexander Johnson] from taking her to Cousin Amy's [duPont] wedding. Did not like Greenwood [Delaware]. Recently came home from Dover "by myself".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.3cm.

NICKY [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], Oct. 21, 1866.

Tells of going to school with "Lina" . . . as teacher; getting "two bushels of oysters"; feeding a pet chicken; Adaline's . . . pet "posum"; callers; her own illness from "the chills"; a school-mate who has seen the college at Chestertown; and being teased at school with the nickname "Muskrat". Implies she is attending the district school, for "the school I was going to go to has broke up". Signs herself "Annie Muskrat to Mink".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.3cm.

[NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON], Farmington, [Del.], April 13, 1868.

Gives the news of family, neighbors and household pets. Mentions the death of Jake Johnson and the marriage of Lum Redden to Mr. Jones. Delivers a message from their father about payment of bills in Chestertown.

[Mrs. Alexander Johnson, nee Elizabeth Dorsey], adds a message of greeting and good wishes, promises to send her stepson her photograph if he wishes it, and hopes the relationship between them may become affectionate when they are better acquainted. Assures him she is not one of "those cruel monsters of fairy book fame".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from N[ICHOLAS] R. JOHNSON, Washington College, Chestertown, Md., Dec. 18, 1868.

Tongue-in-cheek, dictates the contents of the Christmas box he expects from home on Christmas Eve: "Some apples, sausage, popcorn . . ., cake (and plenty of it) . . . first of all I want you to crown the box with a great big pound cake with icing, and then put in about 100 doughnuts, and then some candy, if you have any spare change to buy it with . . ., [and finally] two or three hogs' feet" with, of course, a dollar to pay the freight. Charges his sister to take care of beloved "Jack" who is to have one of his master's doughnuts as a Christmas present. Has just completed an all-day examination in Latin. Discusses loss of a coat. Signs his letter in German script.

[Envelope has a picture of Washington College in upper left-hand corner; partially defaced, but two two-story buildings appear clearly, with the indication of a third.]

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from VIRGINIA [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, summer c. 1870].

Plans to leave for Cape May, [New Jersey] in a few days though she is uneasy at the idea of going "so far" from her aging mother [Mrs. Jonathan Jenkins].

A. N. S. 1 p. 12cm. x 18.8cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, [Del.], Oct. 16, 1871

Mr. . . . Lord is gravely ill. The corn has been shelled and sold, and the cider made and treated with a preservative for winter. The family feasted on a barrel of oysters sent by Miss Lizzie Straughn. Tells of a Sunday School "concert" at Farmington. Hymns, announced by Jane Harrington, were sung; the scholars each recited "a verse with the word son in it"; and Rev. Mr. [Enoch] Stubbs from Milford and Mr. William Lord spoke. Hears the circus at Milford, which she was not allowed to attend, was excellent.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 19.7cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from N[ICHOLAS] R. JOHNSON, Washington College, [Chestertown, Md.], Oct. 21, [18]71.

Found it necessary to "purchase [his] scholarship" direct from the college. Mr. . . . Carlisle is "a perfect gentleman" and highly respected. Alludes to Mr. . . . Lord, Mr. and Mrs. . . . Berkeley, Warren Taylor, and the Sunday School concert at Farmington. Is enthusiastic about a circus he recently attended.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

N[ICHOLAS] R. JOHNSON, Washington College, Chestertown, Md., from [MISS] ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., Nov. 4, 1871.

Tells her brother of the death of Mr. . . . Lord, christening of the children Lorenzo Scott and Mary-Belle Drake, arrival of her white bantams "Nick" and "Annie", and an almost fruitless search for hickory nuts from Albert Curry's woods to Hickory Ridge near Lord's, Mr. Hamilton's and Mr. Scott's'. Her popcorn yield was good, and the apples are already buried in the garden or stored on the garret floor. Sends *Our Mutual Friend* and *The Tribune*.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11cm. x 18cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from ANNIE [JOHNSON], Farmington, [Del.], Dec. 13, 1871.

Promises Nick plenty of apples and fresh pork during his vacation, for the hogs are about to be killed and the buried fruit is still untouched. Grieves over the death of little George Donovan from lockjaw following an injury. Has a new rabbit dog "Jack". Bill Adkins has gone to Crisfield [Maryland] to school.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.3cm. x 18cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, [Del.], Jan. 22, 1872.

Had a pleasant visit to Dover. Received a green silk poplin dress, material for which cost \$22.50. Tells of a surprise party, with thirty guests, at Uncle Gene's [Ridgely], family news and a scheduled "Sabbath school Concert". Reproves her brother for failure to visit Mrs. . . . Berkeley since his return to school.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.9cm. x 17.8cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from N[ICHOLAS] R. JOHNSON, Washington College, [Chestertown, Md.], Feb. 3, [18]72.

Begs for a box from home. Also needs some linen collars, size 13½. Writes of school friends and other Chestertown acquaintances. There has been much severe illness from sore throat [diphtheria?] in the neighborhood.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.4cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., April 16, 1872.

Reports the marriage of William Henry Downs to Miss [Lucinda] Eaton, and the death of "Ma's [Mrs. Alexander Johnson] mother Mrs. [W. N. W.] Dorsey". Mentions Powell's and Short's schoolhouses, Georgie Sheldrake, a "pound party" to which each guest took a pound of something edible, and a dance Nick had spoken of attending. "You can't dance, can you?"

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.8cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., May 8, 1872.

Did not have her expected day with Aunt Ann [duPont] recently because there was no excursion train to Wilmington for "the great Barnum's Show". Likes the "very pretty light calico" bought from Dave Johnson to make her brother's shirts. Promises to have them finished promptly. Wants his copy of "Fasquelle's french book of fables". David Taylor is dead.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.5cm. x 17.8cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, [Del.], July 3, 1872.

Had a table at the recent "Festival in Farmington". Two houses have lately been struck by lightning and another burned. Beniah Tharp is dead. Refers to Mr. . . . Hatfield, the Drake family and John Collison. Expects Nick home in time for the picnic at Farmington. Papa [Alexander Johnson] reluctantly mails \$5.00.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

[NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON], Wesleyan Female College, [Wilmington], Oct. 25, 1872.

Painfully wrenched her arm in a fall at school. After some hours she showed the injury to the President, who "pulled" the arm to correct a dislocation, and later sent her to Dr. [Lewis P.] Bush who approved the treatment already given. Several of the Wesleyan students think it would be fun to correspond with "the Senior Class at your college". Emphasizes that the girls are doing it only as a lark, that they belong to "the first families" and that all letters must be sent through her to avoid detection. Fears anyone caught would be expelled. Begs her brother to burn her letters lest he leave them in his clothes, to be eventually read at home where "they might think things were harm that we thought were just fun". Tells of a little colored girl recently given to their father by a Northerner returning home, her own pleasure in her father's occasional visits, and plans for the Christmas holidays. Hopes they return on the same train so Nick can meet the Wesleyan girls who will be aboard. Asks for his picture. Hopes he will not shave off his mustache and grieves over the "gottee" he has already sacrificed. Admits she is vying with a chum for the distinction of writing the longest letter, but finally says both have agreed to stop together. Names May Rockwell, Georgie Sheldrake, "Becca" [Lord], Nick's friend Mamie . . . who goes to Mrs. . . . Lord's school in Milford, Mr. . . . Gordy and cousin Miss . . . Pusey, Miss . . . Decorse, and Miss . . . Brown. Reminds Nick of his approaching twentieth birthday.

A. L. S. 17 pp. 11cm. x 17.8cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE JOHNSON, Wesleyan Female College, [Wilmington], Nov. 15, 1872.

Urges her brother to reply promptly to a letter written to "The Senior Class, Washington College", in a spirit of fun. Writes of Christmas vacation plans, a visit from Bek [Rebecca] Lord and a letter from Harry [Johnson]. "Uncle Ned [Ridgely] has moved in[to] his new house".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 32cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from ANNIE [JOHNSON] Wes[leyan] Fem[ale] College, [Wilmington], Dec. 2, 1872.

Is gravely troubled by a letter from Nick intimating that he may not graduate with his class. Implores him to do his best, reminding him of their father's [Alexander Johnson] generosity to his children and pride in them. Advises him to get his own lessons before helping his friends. Is likewise worried about his finances. Cannot help him, but suggests he frankly ask his father for funds, admitting extravagance if guilty or listing unexpected expenses if they are the cause of his embarrassment.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 11.6cm. x 18cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Wilmington], from ALEX-[ANDER] JOHNSON, [Farmington, Del., c. 1873].

Refuses her request to spend a brief vacation with "Miss Ruth", since the time is so short and since he wishes her to be with "Aunt Anne" [Mrs. Charles I. duPont].

Mrs. Johnson adds a note about clothing, and the "high flown sentences" in Nich[olas'] and Annie's letters.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 12.6cm. x 16cm.

N[ICHOLAS] R. JOHNSON, Washington College, Chestertown, Md., from [MISS] ANNIE JOHNSON, Wesleyan College, Wilmington, Jan. 11, 1873.

Reproves "Dear Fox" for failure to write. Tells of her trip back to school, with a stop-over at Dover where she found "Aunt Ruth" [Mrs. Jonathan Jenkins] very ill. Mr. Charlie [Charles I. duPont, Jr.] has just died of typhoid fever. Had a "splendid time" at her own party in Farmington, [probably her sixteenth birthday]. The guests "staid until about two or three o'clock", though the evening was stormy.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.6cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE JOHNSON, Wesleyan College, [Wilmington], Feb. 4, 1873.

Enjoyed a sleigh ride through Wilmington which the college President allowed some students to take unchaperoned. John B. Gough gave an "elegant" lecture at the school on *Lights and Shadows of London Life*. After another recent public meeting, the young gentlemen among the guests did not go home until the girls, having ignored the "retiring bell", were sent upstairs by the preceptress. "We had a splendid time." Looks forward to other public lectures. Writes enthusiastically of a good natured and amusing French teacher newly arrived in the country.

Wilmington is crowded and gaily decorated for President [Ulysses] Grant's visit. Lists the guests at two pleasant parties she attended at home. At one the "two Mr. Gordy's" said they had never "seen any body dance" before. Tells of being entertained by Cousin Amy and Aunt Sophie [duPont], feasting on "cake, figs, oranges, nuts and all the good things of life", receiving a supply of apples from their father and "a box of nice French candies" from Miss Mary duPont. "We still have extraordinary fare here, such as stewed oysters, mince pie, chicken pie and the like". Teases Nick about a quarrel with "that 'Bridget' of yours". Wesleyan College is filled to capacity, with eight new students enrolled since Christmas.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 32cm.

NICHOLAS [JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE JOHNSON, Wesleyan College, [Wilmington], April 5, 1873.

Teases her brother about "swallowing a dictionary for breakfast" before writing to her, and about his devotion to Miss . . . Boardman. The most successful April Fool joke at college was an invitation sent to a number of young gentlemen to attend non-existent tableaux; when they arrived they were ushered into Mrs. [John] Wilson's parlor and entertained by the faculty. Promises to write on Saturday "for that is the only day we have our letters taken to the P. O. to go any other place than home". Is going to stay in Wilmington over the Easter holiday. Writes banteringly of the possibility of going to see him graduate.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 31cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Chestertown, Md.], from [MISS] ANNIE JOHNSON, Wesleyan College, [Wilmington], June 14, 1873.

Is excited at the prospect of going home next week but apprehensive over her first experience with public examinations. Reproaches her brother for boarding at the hotel when his father wishes him to stay at college and trusts him to do so. Hopes he may already have returned. Assures him he can "make out with the fare just two months longer".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.3cm. x 18cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington, from [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], April 1, 1874.

An April Fool note.

A. N. U. 2 pp. 18cm. x 11cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Wesleyan Female College, Wilmington], from HARRY [JOHNSON], Dover, Dec. 14, 1874.

Cannot promise to accept his sister's invitation to the "Browning Anniversary exercises" but hopes to come, and will meet her "at the cars" on her way home. Teases her about being too economical with paper.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.3cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington, from ALEX[ANDER] JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., April 8, 1875.

Sends \$10.00. Annie's trunk has arrived.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.6cm. x 20.3cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON], Wesleyan College, [Wilmington], May 14, 1875.

Is studying very hard in preparation for final examinations. The class is such a good one some instructors advise giving no valedictory and salutatory honors, since all outstanding students cannot be recognized. Describes two spelling bees. First and second prizes were books of some value, the others, children's toys. Enjoyed a trip through Mr. [David] Lemon's candy manufactory [in Wilmington] with the entire student body. Expects her family to see her graduate. Reminds her father she must soon make her purchases, and her brother that a gift is in order. Alludes to various friends. Wants the croquet set ready for use when she reaches home.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 30.5cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Snow Hill, Md.], from NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON], Farmington, [Del.], Aug. 1, 1875.

Writes in a teasing vein to "Dear Tids" alluding to subjects she has previously discussed. Is tired of hearing "Curfew shall not ring tonight" recited everywhere.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.6cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Snow Hill, Md.], from ALEX-[ANDER] JOHNSON, Farmington, [Del.], Aug. 18, 1875.

Insists that his daughter terminate her lengthy visit at once. Will meet her at the depot the following day.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.8cm. x 20.5cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS] R. JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MISS ANNIE JOHNSON], Dover, Nov. 7, [c. 1875].

Asks her brother to bring her "book of Latin hymn translations" and some Autumn leaves when he comes on Saturday [to attend a wedding]. Suggests that they go together to Philadelphia afterwards, staying over night with Aunt Ann [duPont]. Mentions May . . . and Georgie [Sheldrake].

A. N. U. 1 p. [postcard] 7.6cm. x 13cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from HARRY [JOHNSON], Dover, Nov. 19, 1875.

Important business is delaying his intended visit home.

A. N. S. 1 p. 13.8cm. x 20.4cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Wilmington], from ALEX-[ANDER] JOHNSON, Farmington, [Del.], Feb. 22, 1876.

Gives his daughter permission to take lessons in German and dancing if Aunt [Ann duPont] approves.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.5cm. x 20.4cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington], from NICKKY [NICHOLAS JOHNSON], Farmington, [Del.], April 2, 1876.

"Everything in the lower part of the state is moving along in the same old beaten pathway. . . . We all seem to know that something unusual and of peculiar importance is going to take place in Philadelphia . . . soon but beyond that we know little and care less." Tells of the financial troubles of Mrs. . . . Sheldrake and her family. Mentions Jack Bowen, D. Johnson, Annie Albright of Mauch Chunk, [Pennsylvania], and their own Wilmington relatives. Was pleased with her recent letter written in French.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13.3cm. x 25cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON], 1223 Market St., [Wilmington], April 6, 1876.

Offers sympathy to Mrs. . . . Sheldrake. Little Annie [duPont] is now out of danger, though at one time the doctor thought her dying. Others of the family are also ill. Has literally no money since she badly miscalculated the fare to Newark, [Delaware]. Needs a new trunk before venturing anywhere for hers is no longer secure. Asks if any of the family plan to attend the opening of the Centennial. Wonders if "anyone has the Farmington school". Calls attention to her fifteen cent stationery.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11cm. x 15cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington], from NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON], Farmington, [Del], July 5, 1876.

Urges his sister to make a long visit to Wilmington, for life in Farmington is very dull. James Pennewill made the 4th of July speech at Bridgeville, [Delaware]. Tells of a baseball series between Farmington and Federalsburgh, [Maryland] clubs. Walter Powell and Sam Beckwith have attended the Centennial. Mentions John Gordy, David Pennewill, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Scott, Mr. . . . Schwartz, Peter Young, "old Ruthie", Miss . . . Day, the Wilmington relatives and the death of Charlie Harrington's baby. Wants "the satchel . . .]from] the 99 cent store".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from NICH[OLAS JOHNSON], Dover, April 26, 1877.

Is enjoying his visit to Dover where he is serving on a jury panel. Chats obscurely of friends he has seen and parties attended. [Richard] Harrington, defending "a poor old Negro woman for receiving stolen chickens" delivered one of the best speeches he has ever heard. "Am boarding at The Capital [Hotel], living high." Mentions Mr. . . . Smithers, Harry [Johnson] and others.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 13cm. x 20.8cm.

NICHOLAS R. JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from [MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Dover], Feb. 11, [c. 1878].

Coaxes her brother to come up to a "sociable" to be given by the young ladies of Dover, "Music by Ritchie from Wilmington". The gentlemen are "invited, all expense paid by the ladies".

A. N. S. 1 p. [postcard] 7.6cm. x 13cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], March 22, [18]78.

Appreciates her niece's thoughtfulness during her own recent illness. Speaks of household duties, plans for short trips, her grandchildren and other relatives. Molly [Mrs. Eugene Ridgely] is not reconciled to leaving ["Linden"] farm; "that life was to her taste". Mentions Dan[iel Ridgely], Ella, [his wife], and [their son] Charles [duP. Ridgely]. Recalls pleasant visits [at Marshy Hope] when Annie's mother [Williamina Johnson] was living.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15cm. x 29cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington], from R[UTH-ANNA] H[ARRINGTON], Dover, Feb. 2, 1881.

Worries over her cousin's illness but is glad she is under Aunt Ann's [duPont] competent care. Tells of household affairs, several recent parties in Dover and a visit from "Aunt Emma" Mrs. . . . Stuart, Mrs. [Elizabeth Cary] Stanton, Miss . . . Cozzens and Miss Antony, [Susan B. Anthony], spoke convincingly at a Women's Rights meeting a few nights ago. Fears Delaware will be slow to make the changes they advocate. The men are busy with railroad matters.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 26.3cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington], from NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON], Dover, Feb. 3, 1881.

Confides his uncertainty about accepting a lobbying fee from the Del[aware] and Western R. R. to the injury of P. W. and B. interests. Feels a certain loyalty to the latter but thinks them "niggardly". Discusses the mysterious activities of Dick, [Richard Harrington] who has a proposition "he says will go through if money will make it" if the pending railroad bill is defeated. Writes of Dover and Farmington acquaintances.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.3cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington], from NICH[OLAS JOHNSON], Farmington, Del., Feb. 6, 1881.

On the night of the great fire in Dover he was at the hotel, on the corridor where the blaze started. Suffered no personal loss or even bad fright for he was not roused from sleep like most others. Tells of waking friends, giving the alarm, helping save property, and of the stream of hysterical, half-dressed guests pouring onto the snowy street at two in the morning. The furniture was moved from the Ridgely house, which was afire several times and seemed doomed, but was saved by snow on its roof. Pities the innkeeper, Col. [William] Fountain, whose business had been so prosperous. Worries about a confidential letter he fears may be in the debris, still legible. Refers to [Alexander and Harry Johnson], Will Smithers, Tom Gooden, and Harry Turner of Wilmington.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington], from VIRGINIA [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], Feb. 7, 1881.

Hopes she has recovered enough to enjoy a letter. Tells of sleighing parties, a pleasant "tea drinking" and the health of the Ridgely family. "The town [Dover] looks rather shabby at the cor[n]er of the green & it is a marvel they saved the old

Ridgely house". Names Sarah Manlove, Mrs. . . . McDaniel and the Porter family among those who lost property in the recent fire. Fears the furnishings of the Ridgely house were roughly handled.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12cm. x 17.8cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, 1223 Market St., Wilmington, from NICH[OLAS R. JOHNSON], Farmington, Del., March 23, 1881.

Is concerned over her repeated illnesses. Members of the [Methodist] church oppose receiving the minister assigned them and may refuse to contribute to his salary. Reports the local news, mentioning Mary Russell and her infant son, Alice Fisher, Miss . . . Pooley, [the late] Joe McCleary, Mollie Hayes, Riny Hopkins, Ebe and George Tumlin, Tom Curry, Mr. . . . Pennewill, Daisy Willson and others. Two neighbors are seeking Federal appointments. Plans to visit Uncle Gene [Ridgely] and to hear Josh Billings lecture in Dover.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington], from NICH[OLAS JOHNSON], Farmington, Del., May 1, 1881.

Enjoyed his visit in Wilmington with Aunt Ann and Harry [duPont]. Is told there are no peach blossoms from Salisbury [Maryland] to Wilmington, and saw none on his trip. Many trees are dead, but the full damage is not yet clear. Has no report from the Dover area. Mentions Sallie Bowen [?], Jennie McCleary, Miss . . . Racer of near Greenwood, Belle Walker [apparently a former servant], their servant . . . Poor, "the young Dr." and Mr. and Mrs. . . . Dunn.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 15cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from VIRGINIA [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, c. summer 1881].

Acknowledges a gift of handkerchiefs and other handwork. Refers to the "gay time" at a recent party, and to plans for "the Mountain trip". Hopes her three children will not keep Ruthanna [Harrington] from enjoying it. Tells of paying off the "motley crew" of houseservants, farmhands, cornthinners and grubbers, white, black and mulatto, young and old, men, women and girls, during her husband's absence. Carrie Eccles has suffered a serious accident. Mentions the members of [Edward Ridgely's] family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Wilmington], from ALEX-[ANDER] JOHNSON, Farmington, [Del.], June 13, 1881.

Sends a check for \$100.00, from which [originally] enclosed doctor's and druggist's bills are to be paid.

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Wilmington], from NICH[OLAS JOHNSON], Farmington, Del., June 14, 1881.

Made \$16.00 in ten days in "the wool business" until a Baltimore bidder ran the price too high. Orders a blue flannel bathing suit from Wanamaker's in Philadelphia. Prices range from \$1.50 to \$3.00. Mentions two festivals at and near Farmington, one held by Zion Baptist Church. News and gossip of the neighborhood concerns the Misses Dale of Bridgeville, Rev. [Mr.] Willis, Jim Pennewill, Will Smithers, Fanny Hoyt, the Curry family, Frank Tumlin, George Tumlin, Mollie Hayes, Jennie McCleary, the Drs. . . . Wharton, Lizzie Poor, the Hazels of Dover and others not fully identified.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNIE" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], May 22, 1882.

Tells of "a lovely little plaque and easel", a fan of "pea fowl feathers", a loaf of sponge cake and numerous cards received on her birthday. Describes an unsatisfactory trip to Philadelphia. Grieves at "Cousin Mary's" . . . death. Uncle Gene [Ridgely] has been ill and will undergo an operation when sufficiently recovered. Names several young callers whose thoughtfulness she values. Has nearly finished her "dreaded housecleaning". Uncle Henry [Ridgely] and "Hity" [Harriet Ridgely] served as lay reader and organist at [Christ] Church yesterday.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13.3cm. x 20.6cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNIE" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, spring c. 1882].

Reports Max's [Harrington] return from "Coon Den". Had a pleasant trip to Wilmington where Aunt Ann [duPont] "always manages so nicely and things move on like clock-work". Appreciates a courtesy she has received from the Johnson family. Refers to little Bessie [Johnson] and to Mollie [Ridgely]. The "beautiful and useful feathers" will be "made up" promptly.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 13.3cm. x 20.7cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from R[UTHANNA, MRS. RICHARD HARRINGTON], Dover, July 26, 1882.

Explains why she cannot come to Farmington to help nurse Annie, whose illness has worried the entire family. Took her children to Delaware Bay for a day. Ridgely [Harrington] and Aunt Ann [duPont] have been sick. Mentions "Hity" and Edward [Ridgely], Annie [duPont], Mollie [Ridgely], John Nicholson, Virgil Fisher, Miss . . . Lewis, Mrs. . . . Richardson, Mrs. . . . Bird and others. The new [Richardson] hotel is about to open; "they are trying all the new things. It is lovely."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 27.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, c. August 1882].

Urges Annie to avoid Farmington's dangerous climate and to take the trip Aunt Ann duPont suggests. Complains of the insolence of a light mulatto child in her household, borne because any help is hard to get. Refers to Mrs. Caddie Bird, the Massey family, Ruthie's [Mrs. Richard Harrington] children, and the rainy weather that threatens the peach harvest. Tells of drives with young relatives to Camden, [Delaware], and to Delaware Bay, the latter in a chartered hack.

A. L. U. [incomplete] 4 pp. 13cm. x 20.3cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from NICH[OLAS JOHNSON], Wyoming, Del., Aug. 16, 1882.

Is concerned over her relapse. Will come home if necessary and has already made arrangements for someone to stay with her. The doctor blames "the orange that you ate".

[Written on stationery of Johnson and Hoey, Fruit Evaporators.]

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNIE" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], Jan. 1, 1883.

Acknowledges a gift, sends New Year's greetings, and mentions Christmas cards and gifts from others. Refers to "aunty" [Mrs. Charles I. duPont], her own daughter [Ruthanna Harrington] and grandchildren Max and Virginia [Harrington].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 13cm. x 20.3cm.

[MISS] ANNE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from SOPHIE [MRS. S. F. DUPONT, "Louviers", Del.], Jan. 3, 1884.

Acknowledges a New Year's gift. Some books for Annie's birthday are delayed. Mentions the [Eugene] duPont family, their recent visitor Miss [Williamina] Porter, and Harry [Johnson]. Grieves over Ned's [Edward Ridgely, Jr.] hopeless illness. Spent a lonely New Year's day.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12cm. x 19.7cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [RUTHANNA, MRS. RICHARD HARRINGTON], Dover, July 22, [18]84.

Enjoyed her visit at "Coon Den". Mentions her children. Speaks of numerous travellers returning from Rehoboth [Delaware] and of the "20 or 30 tents . . ., some 2 story" at the Hammock" [Kitts' Hummock, on Delaware Bay near Dover].

A. N.[S. implied] 2 pp. 20.7cm. x 20.8cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNEY" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, December c. 1884].

With apologies sends her niece a cash gift at Christmas. Hopes her health is improving. Chats of the weather, Christmas parcels, Mrs. . . . Keyser's illness and happenings of the neighborhood, and Virginia [Harrington].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MISS] M[ARY] V. DUPONT, "Rokeby", [Del.], Jan. 2, [c. 1885].

Sends *The Sunday at Home*, an English magazine suitable for "Sunday reading" as her New Year's gift. Tells of a New Years reunion at Amy's [duPont], activities of the family, and a visit from Mrs. [Robert E. A.] Crofton and her children.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.8cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, no address], from NICH[OLAS] R. JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., June 26, 1885.

Sends his sister six dollars, explaining that a trip "up the road" prevented his receiving her request for it sooner.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 15cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from R[UTH] A[NN]A MRS. RICHARD HARRINGTON], Rehoboth Beach, Del., July 10, 1885.

Urges her cousin to join her at Hotel Henlopen [Rehoboth Beach, Delaware], which still has vacant rooms. The fare is excellent, the bathing pleasant and the weather good, though hot. Rates are \$10.00 weekly. Remarks that one hundred fifty took dinner at the hotel recently, while "twice as many" were "in the lunch room with their baskets". Kate and Mr. . . . Marshall, Mrs. . . . Hall, "the Masseys", Mrs. Dan Woodall and Mrs. . . . Bird are all in Rehoboth.

[Letterhead carries a picture of the hotel and its immediate neighborhood.]

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15cm. x 23.7cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from NICH[OLAS] R. JOHNSON, Hygeia Hotel, Old Point Comfort, Va., July 14, 1885.

Had a pleasant trip, with a party of about thirty. Is enjoying his stay. The seafood is superb. The 624-room hotel is very modern. Watched the dress parade at Fort Monroe, whose garrison numbers about 200. Its excellent band is now playing on the hotel verandah. Leaves for New York tomorrow, via Norfolk.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.5cm. x 24cm.

[Enclosed is a folder advertisement of McMenamin's Deviled Crabs.]

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNIE" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], Dec. 27, [18]85.

Reproves her niece for straining her eyes to make an embroidered gift. Describes the Christmas decorations prepared for the grandchildren: a tree, "refreshment table & a beautiful circle under the chandelier", a tinselled basket of flowers, with a doll peeping out, "those glass globules, strings of glass ornaments and those pretty gaily colored tinsel ornaments The boys & V[irginia Harrington] as usual each had a loaf of lady cake marked in their own name, a profusion of little pies of all sorts, plain cakes, biscuits, fruit baskets of oranges, bananas, grapes—plates of candy pop-corn decorated & the free use of the pump if drink was required". The children had "a very full gift table" besides a barrel of apples and a peach basket of popcorn each from their grandfather. Was delighted with little Virginia's enthusiasm. Alludes to "the church festival". Mentions Ruthy [Ruthanna Harrington], the Harrington family, Mrs. . . . Smithers, and the Johnson family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.4cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Wilmington], from SOPHIE [MRS. S. F. duPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], March 10, 1886.

Bad weather has confined her during Annie's visit. Sends as a gift *In His Steps*, by Senter Rentting and "a little handkerchief such as . . . the girls sometimes tie around their necks when going out to ride in the cars". Mentions Dr. . . . Lee.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 10.3cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNIE" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover], May 1, [18]86.

Regrets having missed her niece's recent call through failure to hear the doorbell after the servants had left at seven o'clock. Has finished a thorough spring cleaning. Took "a basket of cake to the men for the carpet cleaning, as they always expect something". Ruthy [Ruthanna Harrington] is "ever on some pleasant go", a party, a reading, or some similar amusement.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.5cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from "JENNIE" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, "Eden Hill", Del.], June 6, [18]86.

Chats of "little shelves" recently sent to Annie, a missed train, a trip to Wilmington and another to Seaford to [P. E.] Conference, Max and Virginia [Harrington], her husband whom she now teasingly calls "Rev. Dr. Ridgely", and casual happenings in her household. Sends a message to Bess [Johnson].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 17.5cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MISS] M[ARY] V. duPONT, "Rokeby", [Del.], Dec. 18, [1886].

Is worried at hearing Annie has been having "trouble with [her] lungs" but hopes she may recover rapidly during her trip South. Sympathizes with her trial, since she herself had so much sickness in her youth. Hopes her own improved health in later years may be Annie's also. Will continue *The Sunday Magazine* subscription, which can be sent to her address in the South if she wishes.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.3cm. x 18cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from AMY [MRS. EUGENE duPONT, Wilmington, Del.], Dec. 26, [18]86.

Acknowledges a gift of unusually fine holly. Hopes the trip South will restore her cousin's health.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11cm. x 17.4cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, n. p.], from ALEX[ANDER JOHNSON], Farmington, [Del., ante 1887].

Peremptorily summons his daughter home.

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.7cm. x 20cm.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, [Farmington, Del.], from "JENNIE" [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, c. Jan. 1887].

Acknowledges a Christmas gift. Worries over the idea of her niece "going alone & amongst strangers on a strange journey", but hopes the trip works a complete cure.

A. N. S. 1 p. 10.7cm. x 16.8cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Thomasville, Ga.], from NICH[OLAS JOHNSON], Farmington, Del., Jan. 26, 1887.

Acknowledges word of her safe arrival. Refers to a coal oil stove as a novelty. Tells the news of the neighborhood, mentioning their own family, death of Janie Betts' baby, Dr. . . . Barber's unreasonable bill of \$39.50 with individual visits at \$.50 to \$1.50 per call, theft of a stack of fodder, and purchase of "a \$100.00 organ" by Bob Cordray, Pem Clifton and "Thite" Hammond. Inquiries for Annie Watson.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Thomasville, Ga.], from [MISS] M[ARY] V. duPONT, "Rokeby", Del., Jan. 31, [1887].

Is delighted to hear of Annie's comfortable journey and improving health. Sends a letter of introduction to her friends Dr. and Mrs. . . . Mayer and Miss [Isabel] Monroe who are coming to Thomasville.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11cm. x 18cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON], Thomasville, [Ga.], Feb. 11, [18]87.

Enjoys Thomasville, and finds the people friendly, especially when assured "we did not like Yankees any better than they did and consider ourselves Southerners". Houses are built very high from the ground, without cellars. Many winter residents come from St. Paul, Minnesota. Discusses her brother's failure to receive a railroad pass. Writes playfully about a Confederate captain who seems charmed with one of their party. Likes the Mayers family to whom Mary duPont introduced her, and their relative Miss [Isabel] Monroe from New Orleans who tells harrowing tales of the [Civil] War.

A. L. S. 10 pp. 11.4cm. x 17.3cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Thomasville, Ga.], from [MISS] BESSIE [ELIZABETH JOHNSON], Farmington, Del., March 4, 1887.

Tells of her pet lamb, her dolls, and the activities of family and friends. Father [Alexander Johnson] recently attended the funeral of Judge [Edward] Wootten in Georgetown. Looks forward to attending school this summer.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Thomasville, Ga.], from [MISS] MOLLIE [RIDGELY, Wilmington], March 14, [1887].

Comments on the death of Isabel Monro at Thomasville. Mentions Mrs. . . . Mayer, Nellie Buck, Mr. . . . Lewis, the Bishop [Alfred Lee] who has typhoid fever, and the death of Mrs. . . . Adams.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from [MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON], Thomasville, [Ga.], March 31, [18]87.

Her summer-like environment makes it hard to realize it is cold at home. Enjoyed a delightful picnic and a fancy dress party. Has visited several lovely old plantations. A theft and an attack upon the sheriff have aroused the town. Tells of old "Uncle Jeff" who will choose her some watermelon seeds.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20.4cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from LOUISE L. MARSH, York, [Penna.], June 9, [18]87.

An acquaintance tells of her activities since returning from Thomasville and her plans for the future.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from K. A. MONROE, New Orleans, [La.], July 18, [18]87.

Apologizes for delay in replying to letters previously received. Tells of the news of her own family and of mutual acquaintances from Thomasville, [Georgia].

A. L. S. 6 pp. 12.4cm. x 12.7cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from
[MISS] MARY V. DUPONT, "Rokeby", Del., Feb. 6, [18]88.

Acknowledges a pin cushion, Annie's New Year's gift. Only the death of her beloved Aunt Sophie [Mrs. S. F. duPont], with the resultant sad task of distributing her belongings, has prevented a more prompt acknowledgment. Has subscribed to *The Sunday Magazine* for Annie.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

[MISS] ANNIE [JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from
[MISS] MOLLIE [RIDGELY, Wilmington, spring 1888].

Tells of activities of mutual friends in Wilmington and the gradual settlement of Aunt Sophie's [duPont] estate.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

ANN [MISS ANNIE JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from
[MISS] MOLLIE [RIDGELY, Wilmington], May 9, [1888].

Is worried that her cousin recovers so slowly from a recent attack of pleurisy. Urges her to come to Wilmington for a restful visit. Tells of the preparations for a fair which proved very successful financially. Mr. and Mrs. [Watson] Sperry have been kind and attentive all winter. Has successfully remade a "despised" suit. "Poor Mr. Victor" [duPont] now appears to be dying after a month's illness. Pities Mary [duPont].

A. L. S. 11 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.3cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from
AMY [MRS. EUGENE DUPONT], "Nemours", [Del.], Jan. 2 [18]89.

Appreciates the partridges her cousin sent, a particular treat since they are scarce this season. Writes affectionately of Annie [Johnson].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.4cm. x 20cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from
AMY [MRS. EUGENE DUPONT], "Nemours", Del., June 26, 1891.

Appreciates her cousin's desire to make her a present for her twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, but has specifically asked all friends to give her nothing on the occasion. Is sorry he cannot attend her reception. Though she has "asked no one more distant than first cousins" she sent over one hundred fifty invitations. Hopes to meet Bessie [Johnson] who is so highly spoken of.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 16cm.

NICK [NICHOLAS JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from
AMY [MRS. EUGENE] duPONT, ["Nemours", Del.], Oct. 18,
1893.

Has shipped "Caesar", a fine collie. Discusses his training
and pedigree. Hopes her cousin will visit her before Anne's
[duPont] wedding the following spring; expects him certainly
then.

A. L. S.

4 pp.

11cm. x 17cm.

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